GHOST IN THE SHELL

STAND ALONE COMPLEX

EPISODE2:TESTATION

002

Yu Kinutani

Translation by
Andria Cheng

Lettered by
Paige Pumphrey

Ghost in the Shell Standalone Complex 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as yobisute, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

GHOST IN THE SHELL

STAND ALONE COMPLEX

GITS / SAC / E2 TS

YU KINUTANI

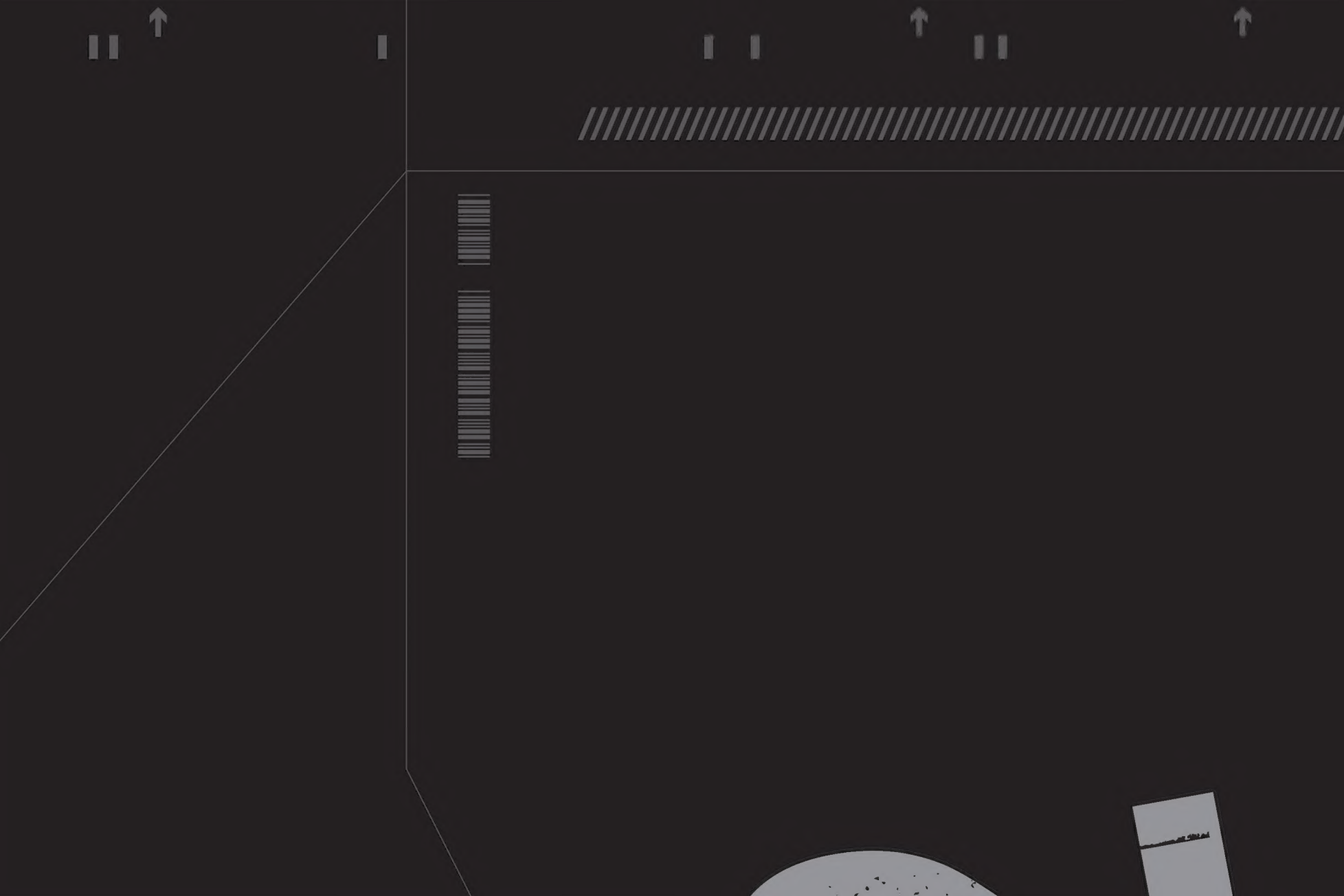
SHIROW MASAMUNE
PRODUCTION I.G

Ghost in the Shell
Stand Alone Complex
Episode 2: Testation

Yu Kinutani

GHOST IN THE SHELL
STAND ALONE COMPLEX
EPISODE TESTATION

002



GHOST IN THE SHELL

STAND ALONE COMPLEX

EPISODE 2: TESTATION

002

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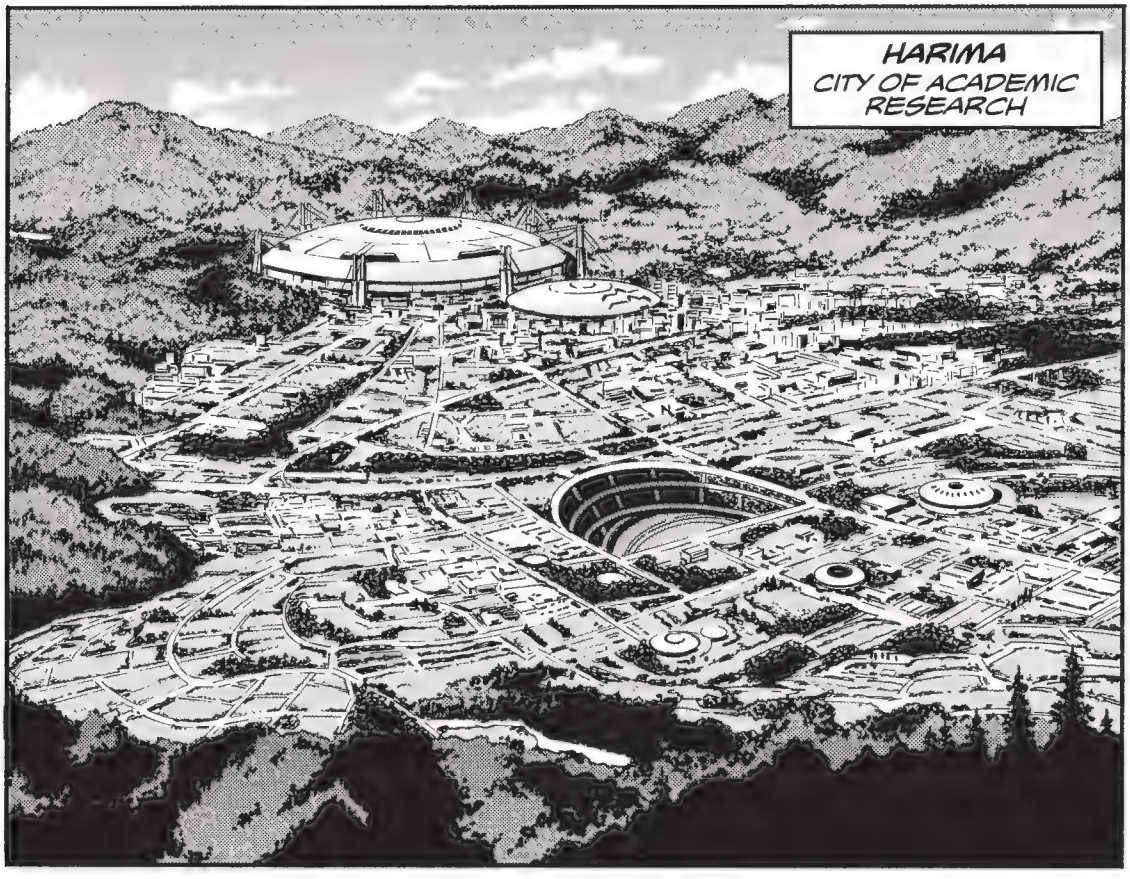
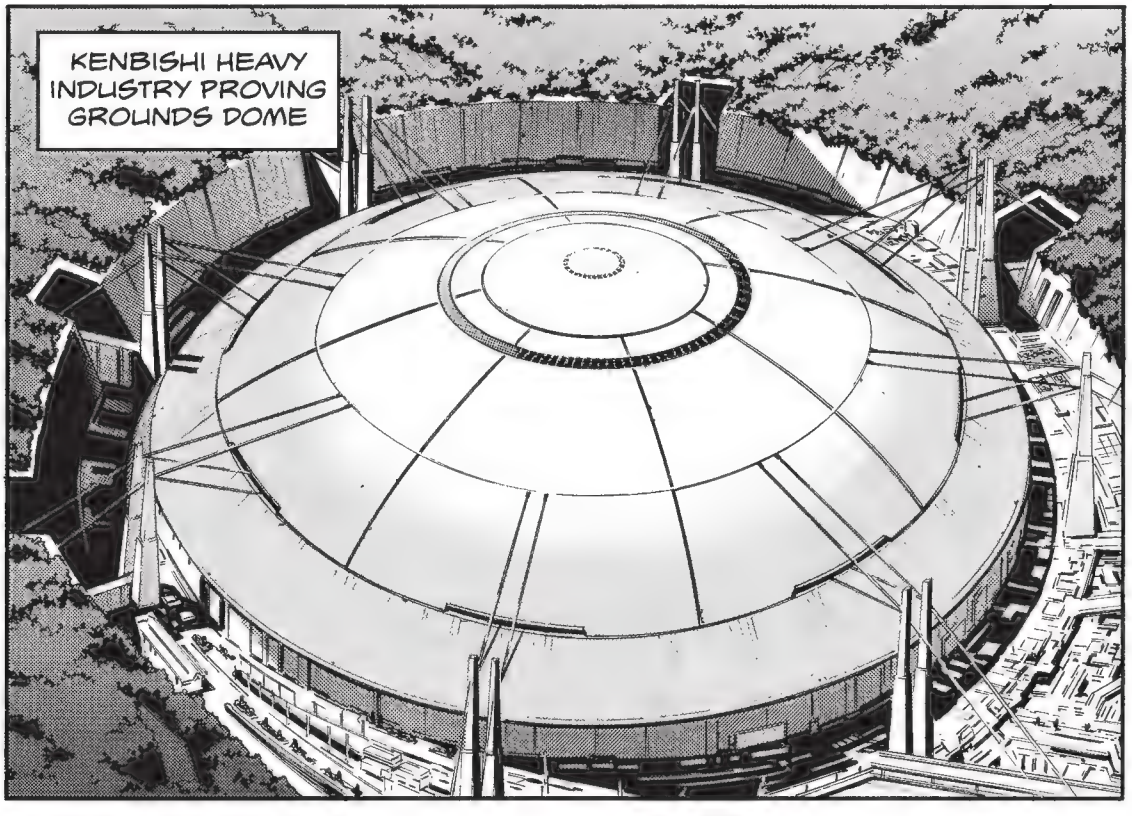
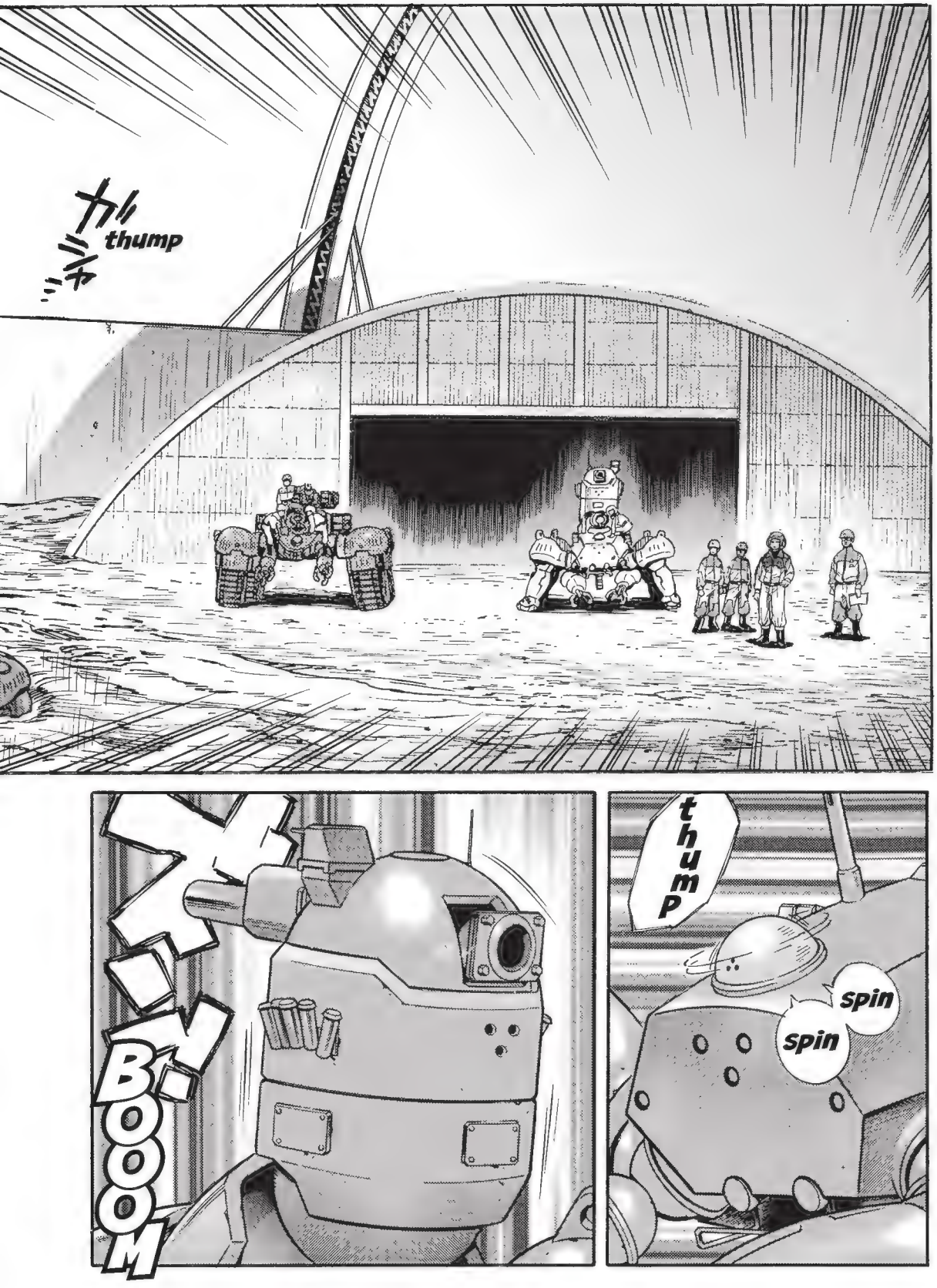
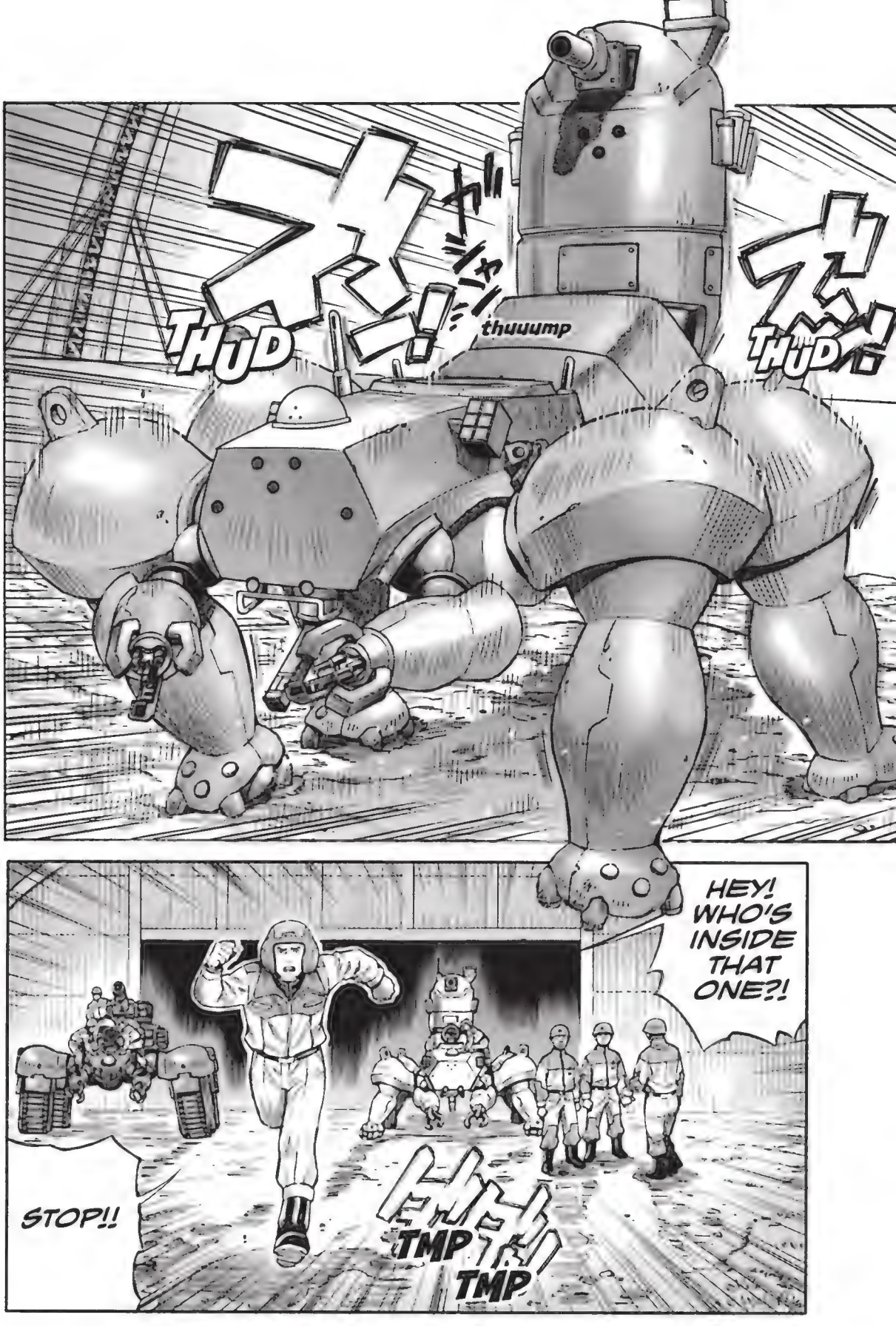
#012: Runaway Tank


HARIMA
CITY OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH

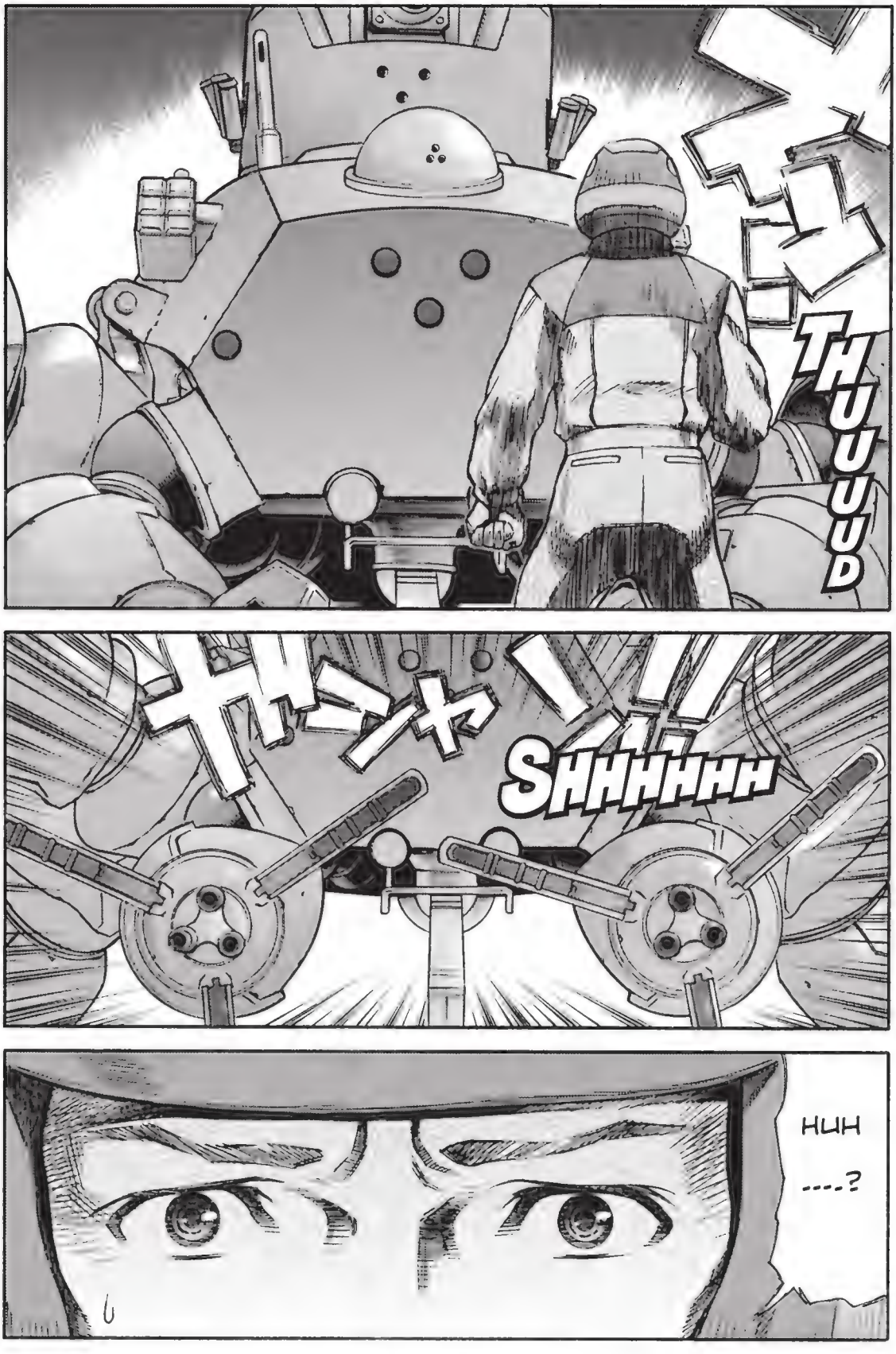

KENBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRY PROVING GROUNDS DOME

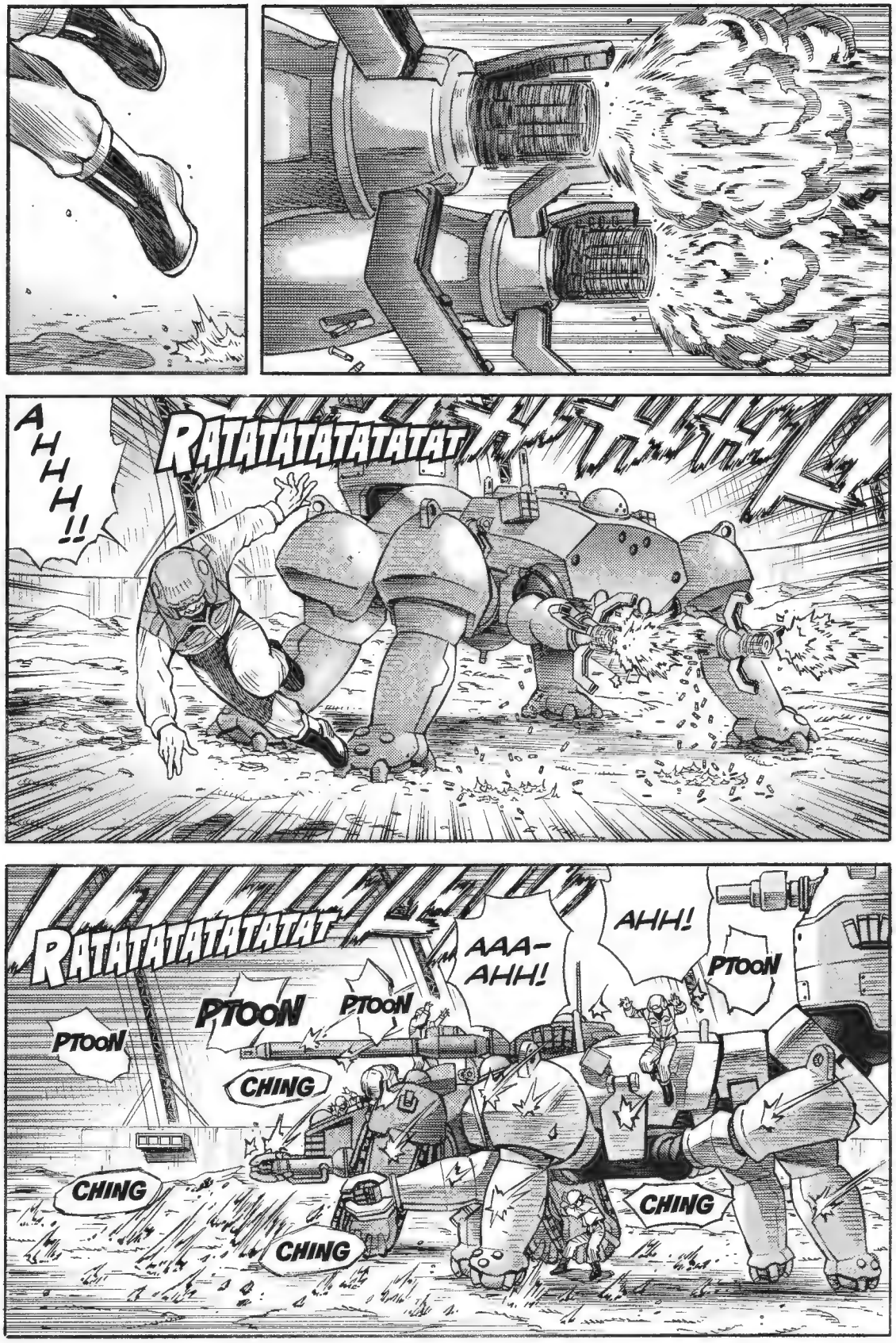
THUMP
BOOOM
BOOM
THUMP
THUMP
BOOOM
WHAT?
THAT'S STRANGE ...
... HMM?


thump
BOOOM
thump
spin
spin

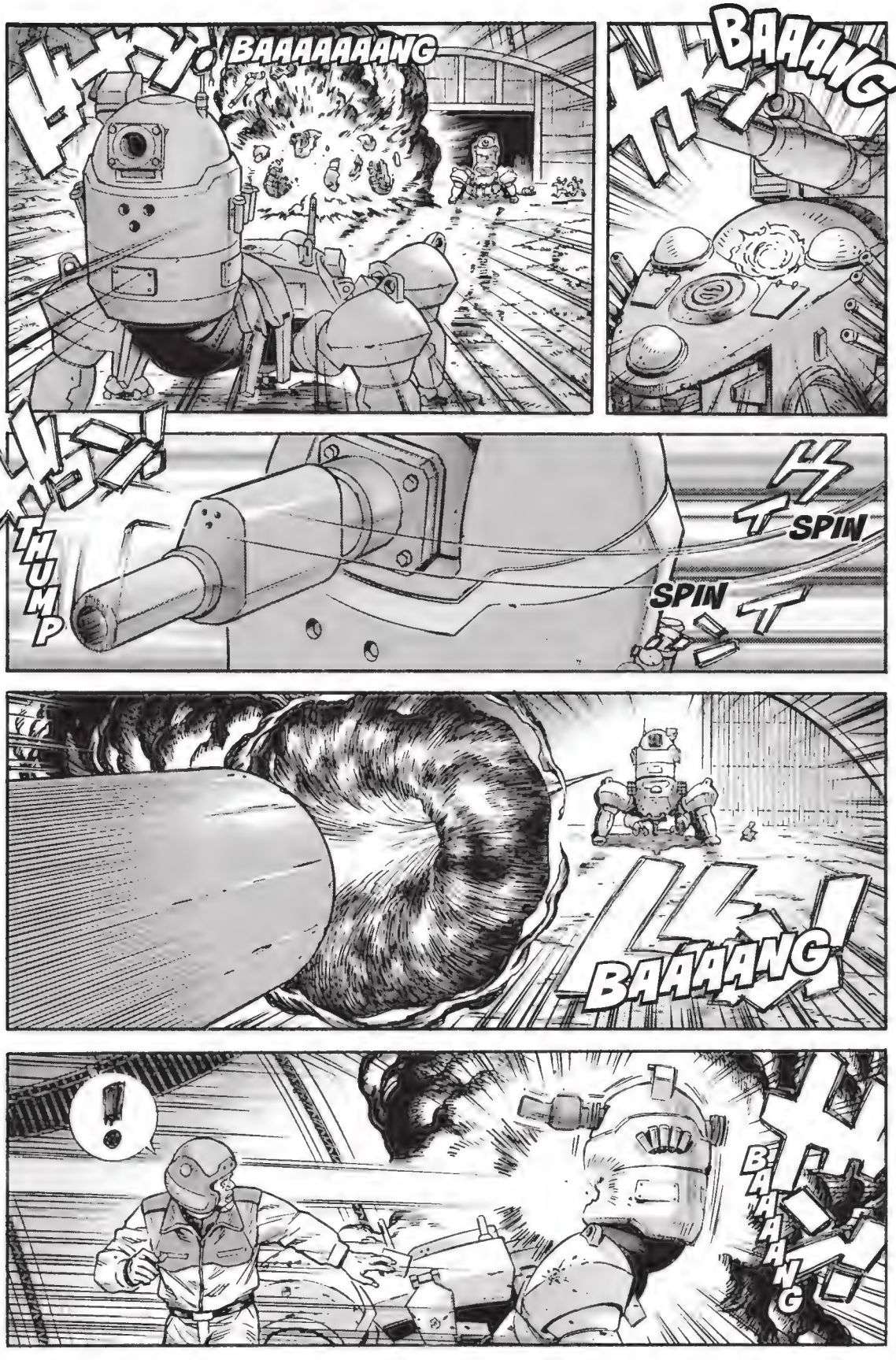

THUD
thuuump
THUD
HEY! WHO'S INSIDE THAT ONE?!
STOP!!
TMP
TMP

SHHHH
THUMP
SHHHH
THUMP
SHHHH
WHO'S IN THERE? GET OUT! STOP!!
I'M THE HAWK 206'S TEST DRIVER!!
IT STOP-PED ---?!
SHHHH
THUD
THOOOMP
SHHH
VRRRR
THUD
SHHH
SHHH
THUMP


THUUUUD
ガシャ！！
SHHHHHH
HUH
----?

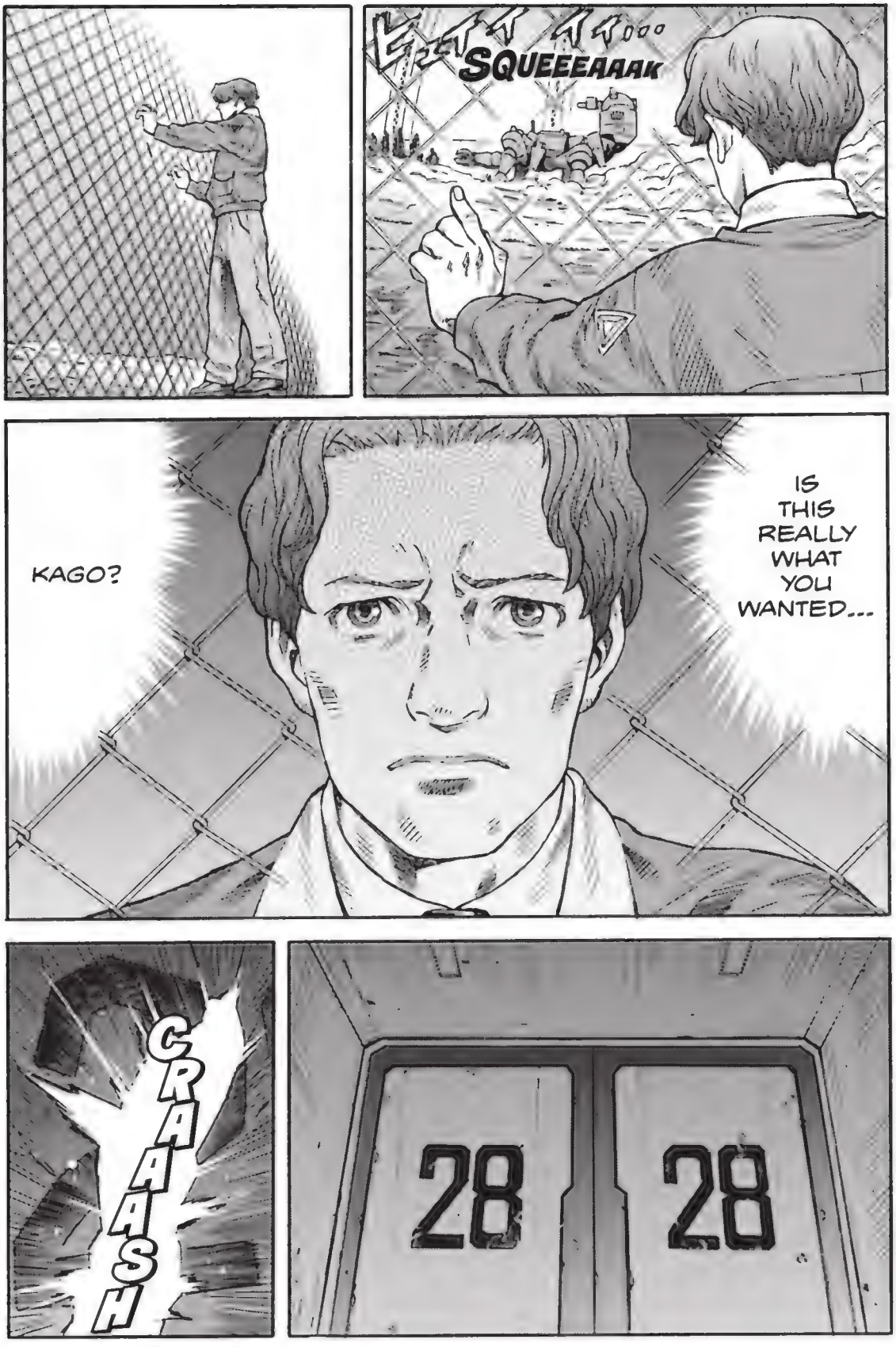

AHHH!!
RATATATATATATAT
RATATATATATATAT
AAA-AHH!
AHH!
PTOON
PTOON
PTOON
PTOON
CHING
CHING
CHING
CHING

FSSHUU
THUUUD
UW AA AH H!
CHING
SPIN
CHING
SHHH
PTOON
CHING
BOOM
AA HH!
TMP TMP
SPIN SPIN
THUD
AA AH H!
TMP TMP TMP
THUD
RUMBLE
BAAAAAAAAAANG!

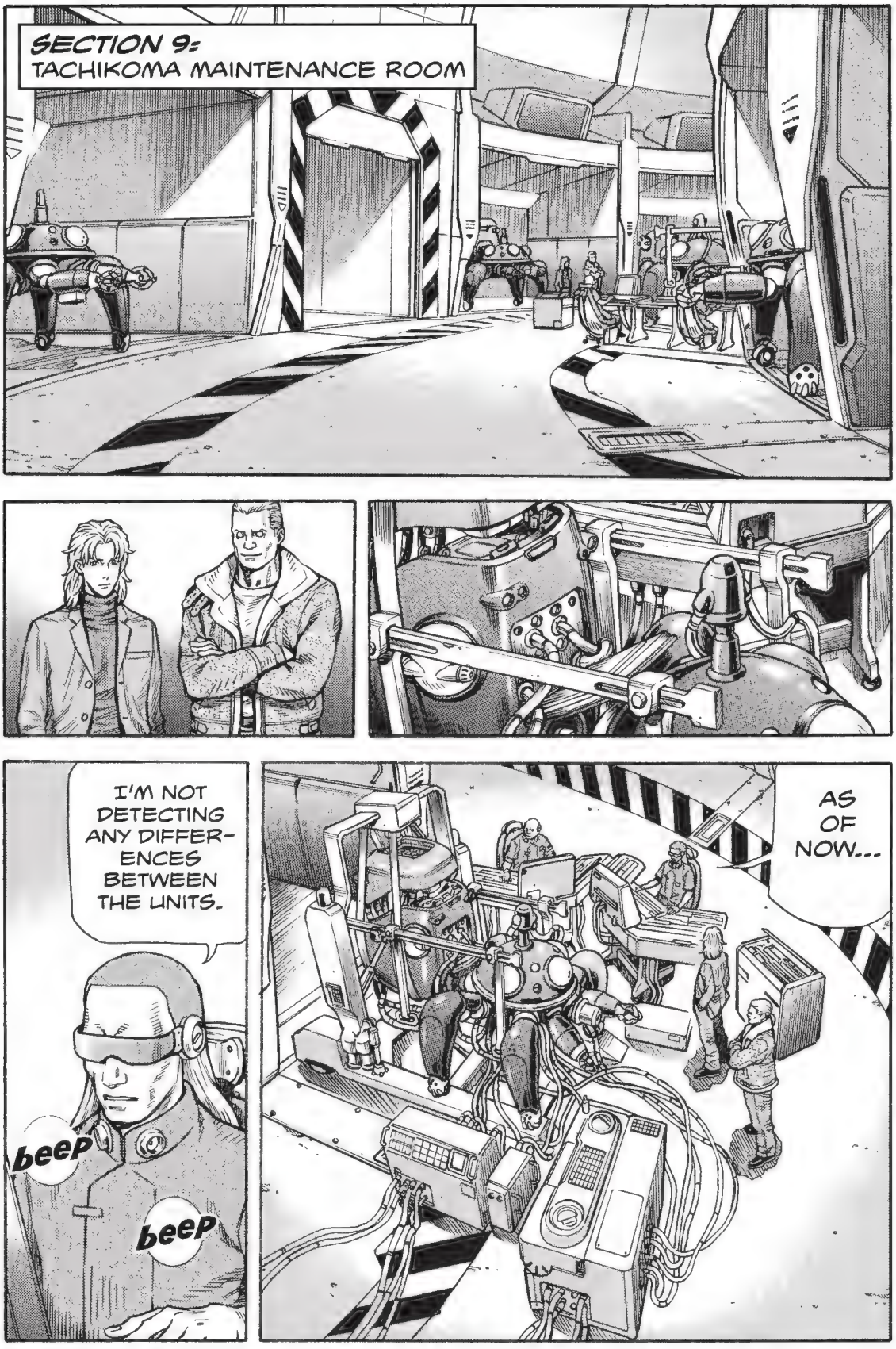

BAAAAAAAAANG
BAAANG
THUMP
SPIN
SPIN
BAAAANG!
!
BAAAANG

THUMP
BOOOM
AARGH!
BOOOOOOOM
KRRSSH
KRSSH
FWOOOOOSH
SKRREEEECH
ROOOOOAR

I'M SORRY, SIR! WE DON'T KNOW, EITHER!
WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON?
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EVALUATION!
Sneak
HEY, YOU! WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT, BUT I NEED SOME MORE TIME...
28
SKREEEE
SKREEEECH

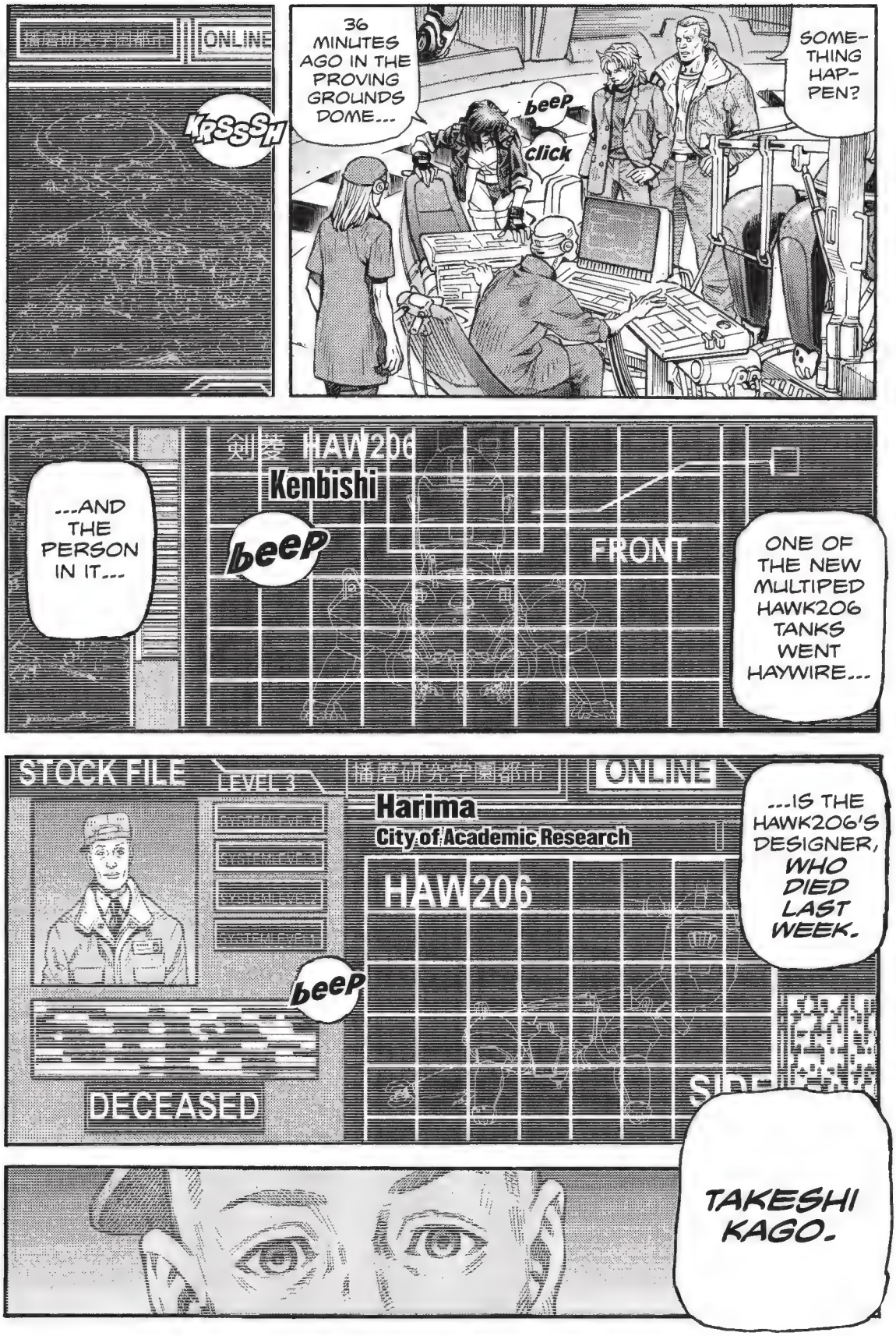

SQUEEEAAAK
KAGO?
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANTED...
CRAAASH
28
28

FWOOOOOSH
BAAANG
RUUUMMMBLLE
VRRRR
SHHHH
THUD
SHHHH
THUD


SECTION 9:
TACHIKOMA MAINTENANCE ROOM
I'M NOT DETECTING ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITS.
beeP
beeP
AS OF NOW...

JUST TELL IT NO MATTER WHAT UNIT YOU CHOOSE, THE SPECS WILL BE THE SAME.
beep
beep
beep
UNI-QUE?
THAT MEANS.... YOU'RE NOT UNIQUE.
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
HM...
CHING
NAT-URAL OIL ---
clink
I'VE GOT SOME-THING GOOD FOR YOU!
HEY! BATŌ!
YAAY!
THIS IS HOW I EXPRESS MY LOVE TO OUR MACHINES!
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
IS IT OK TO PUT THAT IN HIM? IT MIGHT START ACTING WEIRD.

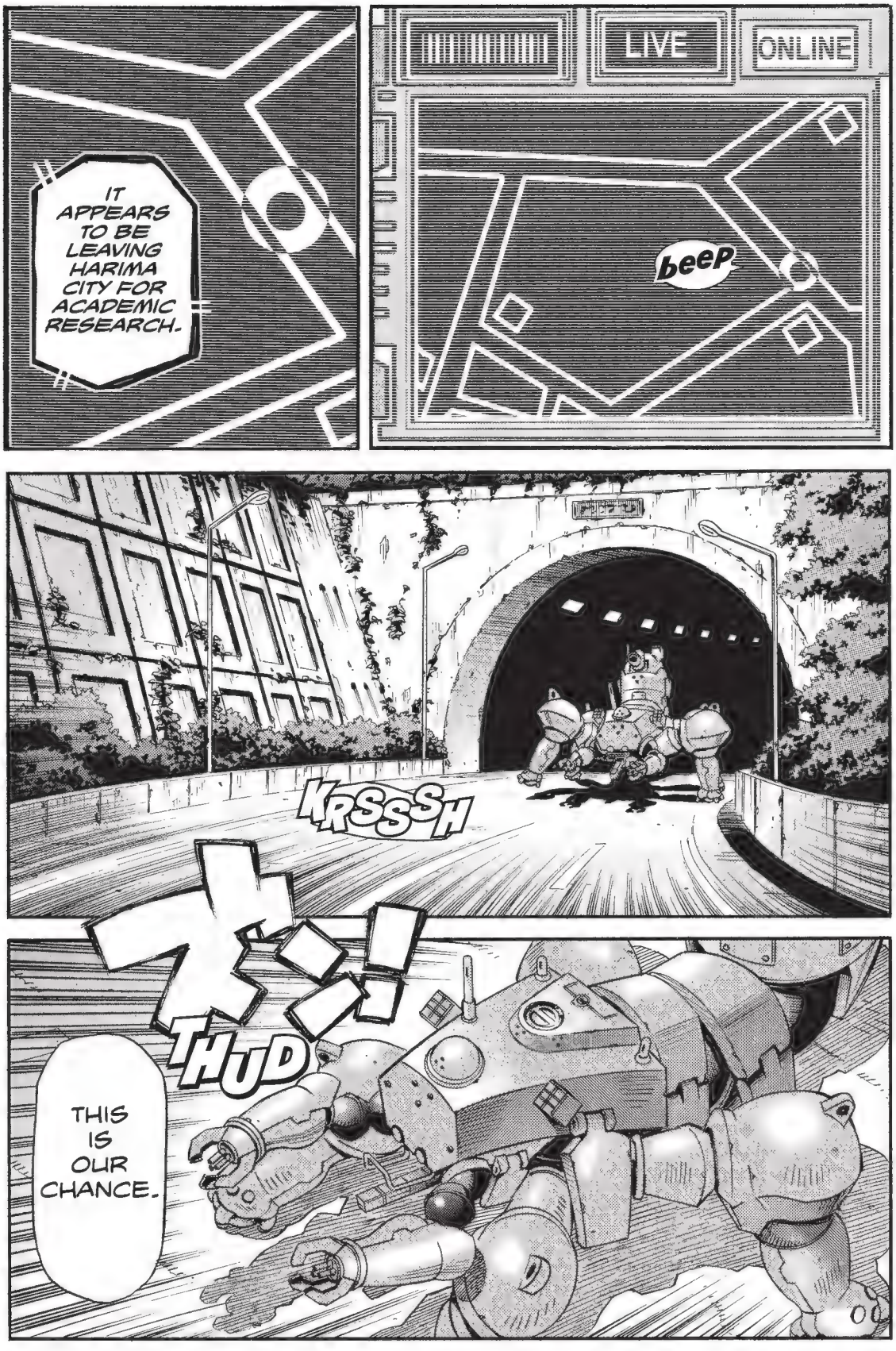
YEP!
THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE SYNTHETIC OIL, ISN'T IT?
OOH!
OVER HERE!
click
click
click
click
AH, MAJ-OR!
AHH, CRAP!
MAJ-OR ---?!


ONLINE
KRSSSH
36 MINUTES AGO IN THE PROVING GROUNDS DOME...
beeP
click
SOME-THING HAP-PEN?
...AND THE PERSON IN IT...
剣陵 HAW206
Kenbishi
beeP
FRONT
ONE OF THE NEW MULTIPED HAWK206 TANKS WENT HAYWIRE...
STOCK FILE
LEVEL 3
ONLINE
Harima
City of Academic Research
HAW206
beeP
DECEASED
...IS THE HAWK206'S DESIGNER, WHO DIED LAST WEEK.
TAKESHI KAGO.

SOMEONE WAS USING TAKESHI KAGO'S ID CODE.
IDIOT!
SO LIKE... A GHOST?
OOOOOO!
SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMANDS OR CLAIMS OF RESPONSIBILITY.
...SO THEY'VE REQUESTED SECTION 9 MOBILIZE TO STOP IT.
THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF TERRORISM AIMED AT SPRING 8...
IF IT TURNS OUT THE PROBLEM WAS DUE TO HARDWARE OR A LAPSE IN SOFTWARE SECURITY...
--- SELF DEFENSE FORCES WILL PUT THE BLAME ON KENBISHI ---
--- BECAUSE THEY WERE ABOUT TO OFFICIALLY PUT THE TANKS INTO SERVICE.
THE TANK WENT HAYWIRE DURING A TEST EXERCISE FOR FINAL FINE-TUNING.

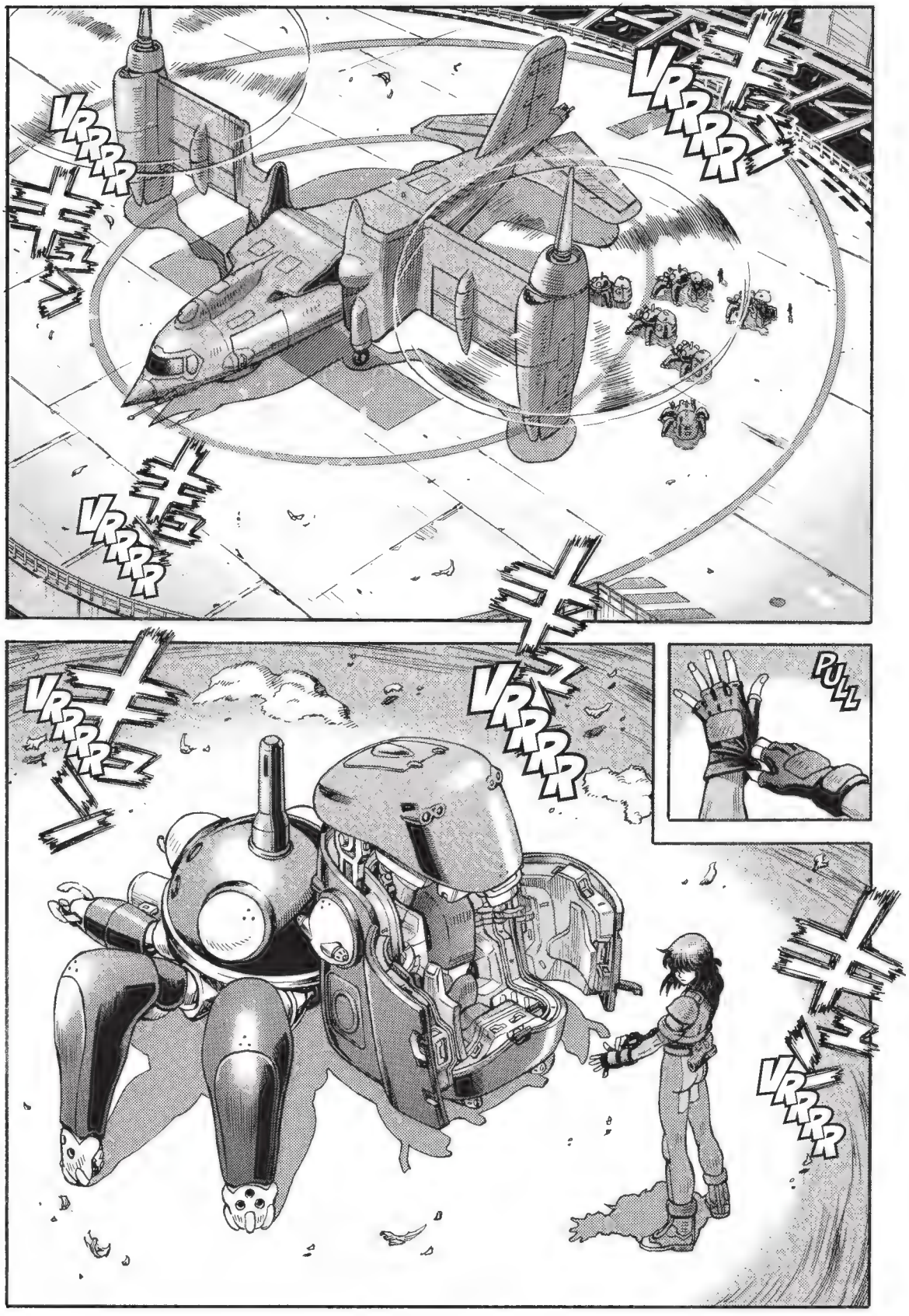
APPARENTLY THEY'LL ONLY INTERVENE IF TERRORISTS CLAIM RESPON-SIBILITY.
TCH.
SOUNDS LIKE THEM.
WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE HAW206!
PREP SIX TACHIKOMAS WITH FULL LOADOUTS!
TACHI-KOMA?

OH?
GRRR
WHEN WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE TANK'S SPECS?
THANKS, MAJOR!
AH HH !
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THESE LITTLE GUYS.
THE TANK HAS CHANGED COURSE.
WHAT IS IT?
SERIOUSLY?
SERIOUSLY.
UG GH ---
!
MAJOR!


IT APPEARS TO BE LEAVING HARIMA CITY FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH.
LIVE
ONLINE
beep
KRSSSH
THUD
THIS IS OUR CHANCE.

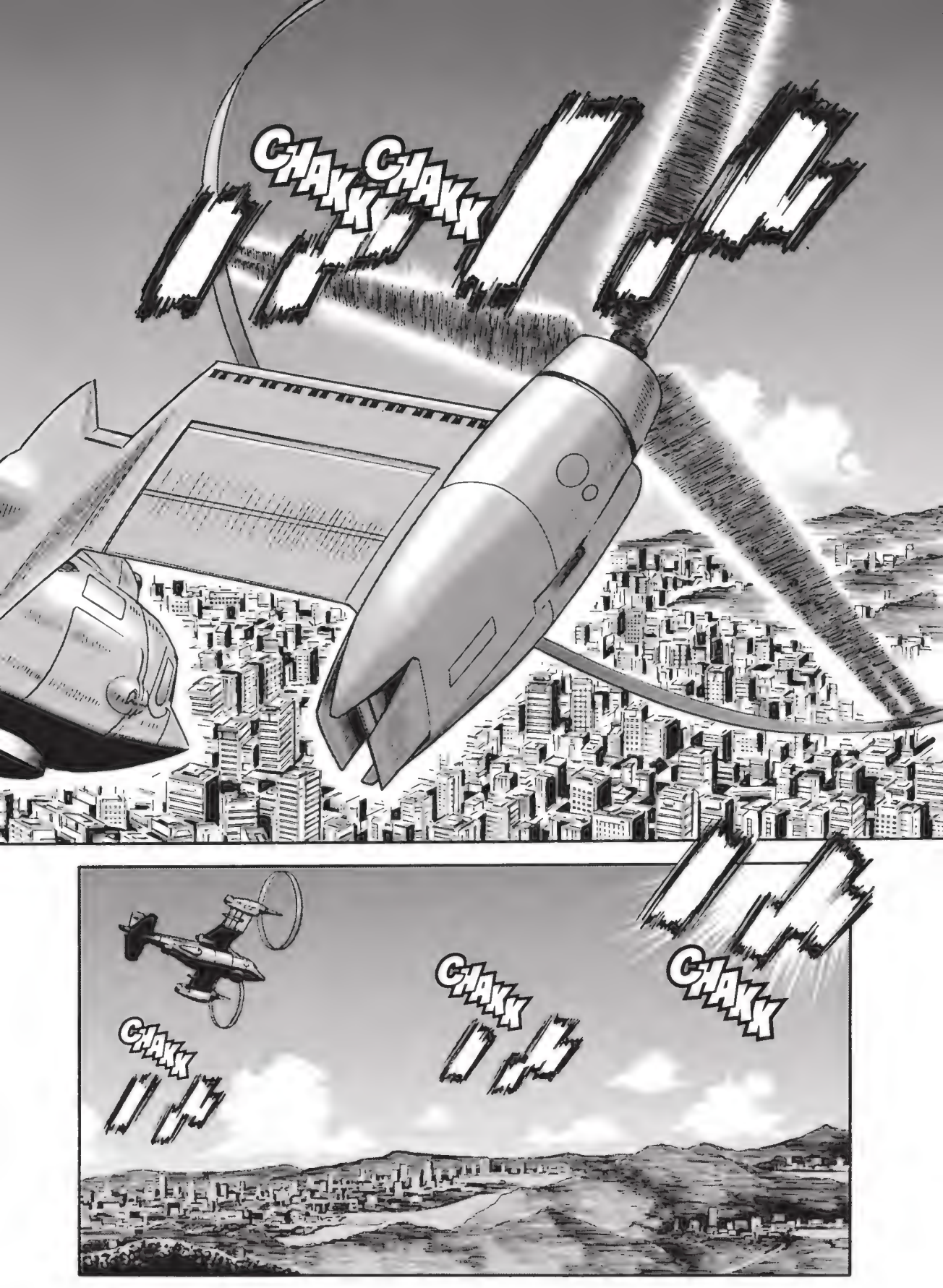
SO IF A FIREFIGHT BREAKS OUT, THE CASUALTIES WILL BE MINIMIZED.
NOTHING BUT FARM-LAND AROUND THERE.
THAT TECHNO-LINE IS A PRIVATE ROAD THAT USED TO BE A MOUNTAIN PASS.
ROG-ER!
SNIPE IT AT THE DESIG-NATED LOCA-TION.
SAITŌ AND BORMA, GET READY TO INTERCEPT ON THE HARIMA TECHNO-LINE.
YES, MAJ-OR!
WE'LL STOP IT WHERE IT CAN DO THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DAM-AGE.
BATŌ AND I WILL TAKE THE 6 TACHIKO-MAS.
GOT IT.
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME IF IT KICKS YOUR ASS!
LEAVE THE DAN-GEROUS STUFF TO ME.
YOU HEARD HER.
WHA ---
--- RO -GER ---
TOGUSA, MEET UP WITH THE CHIEF AT KENBISHI AND TRY TO FIND OUT WHY THE TANK WENT HAYWIRE.
RO-GER.
PAZ ---
---CHECK IF ANY TERRORIST GROUPS OPPOSING CYBERIZA-TION OR PROTHESTIC BODIES HAVE CLAIMED RESPONSI-BILITY.

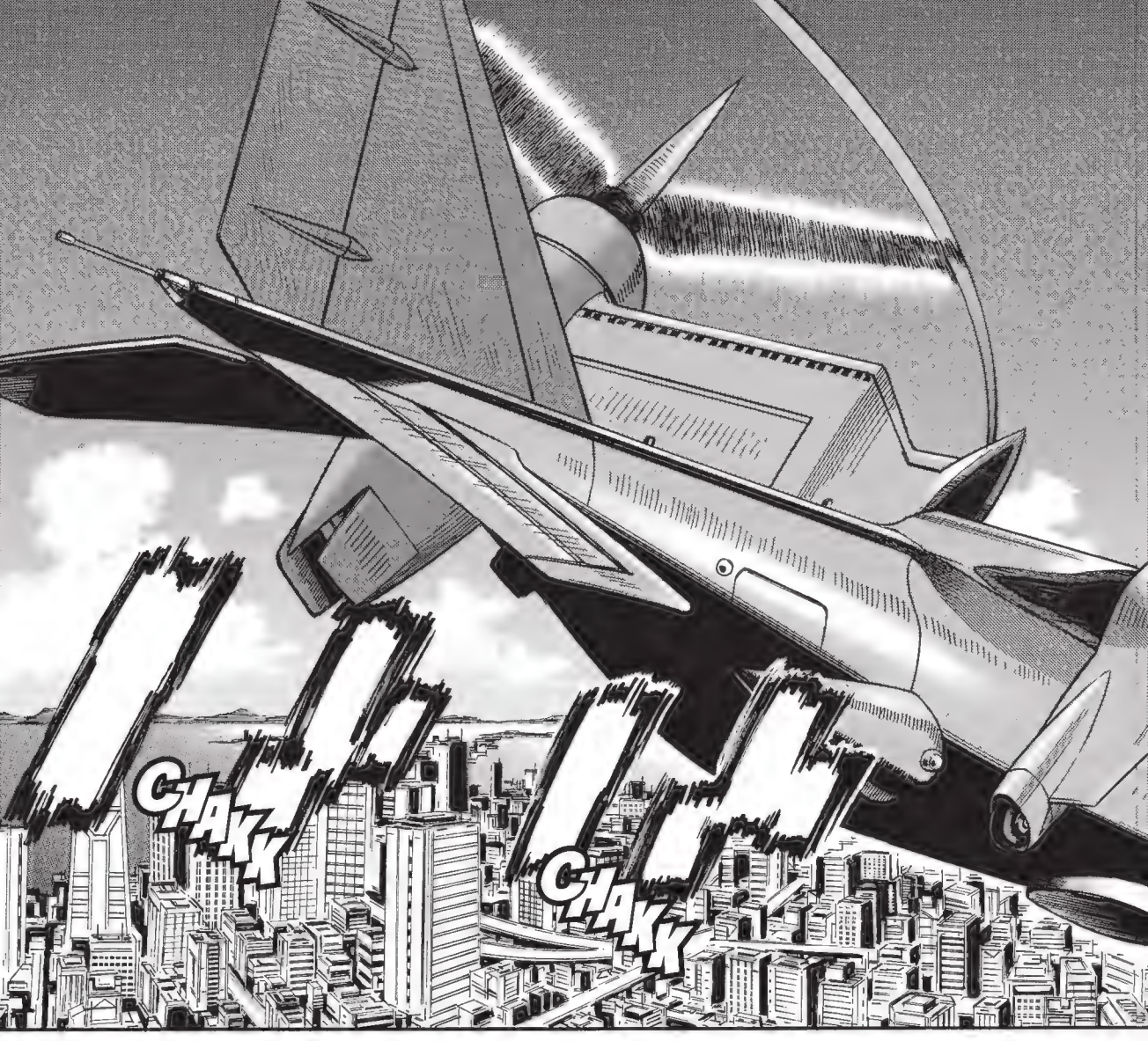
LET'S MOVE OUT, SECTION 9.
PREPARE THE TACHIKO-MAS AND CHOPPER ON THE ROOF!
BAM
FWOOOOOSH
SECTION 9
ROOFTOP
HELIPAD
FWOOOOOSH

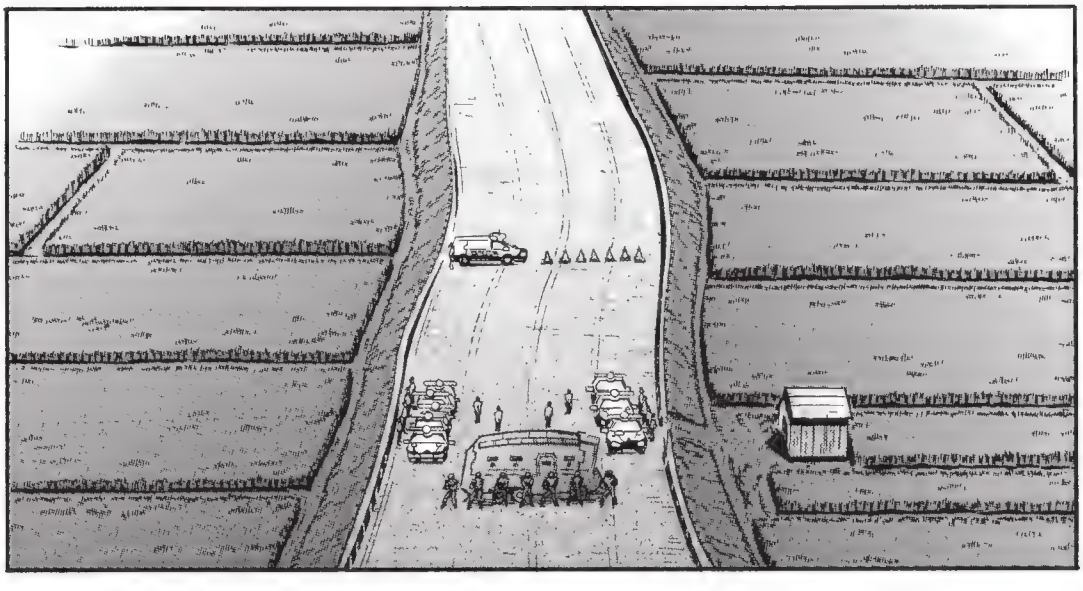

VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
PULL

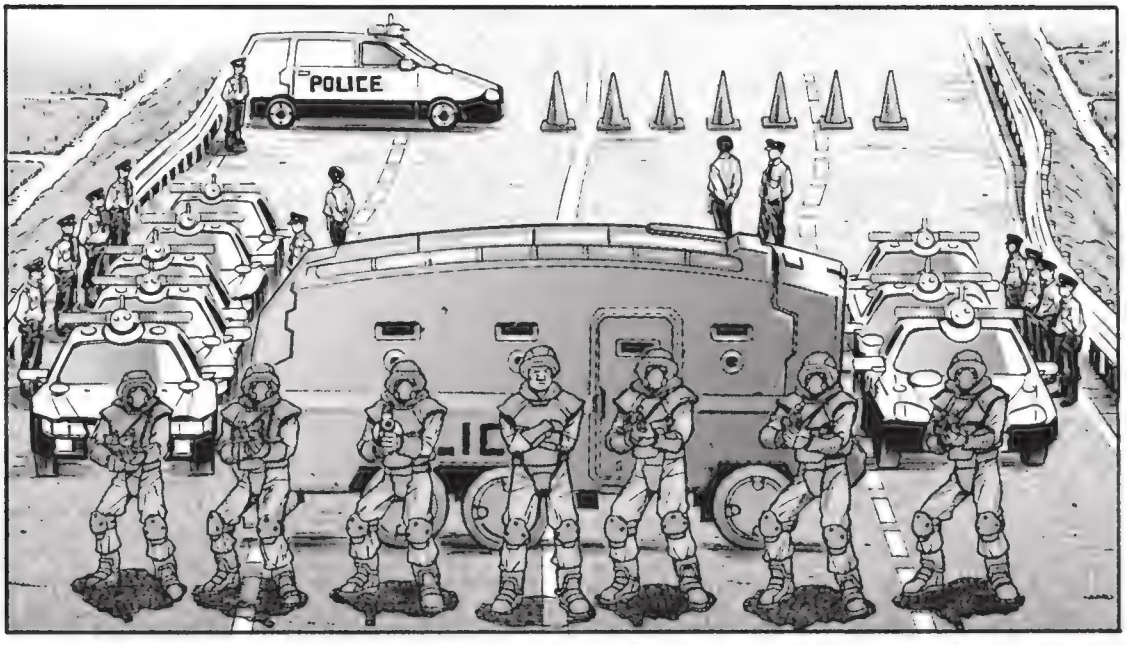
GRAB
VRRRR
TMP
PFSSH
CLINK
STAND BY!
FWOOOOOSH

READY.
READY, BATŌ?
HURRY UP!
I'M NER-VOUS!
SO EXCI-TED!
WE NEED TO HURRY! BOARD THE CHOPPER ONE AT A TIME!!
OH!
HEY, ISN'T HARIMA CITY OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH ---
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
MAJOR WILL GET MAD IF WE TALK TOO MUCH.
CLINK
CLINK
A TRIUM-PHANT RETURN TO OUR HOME-TOWN!
---WHERE OUR NEURO-CHIPS WERE MADE?
CLINK

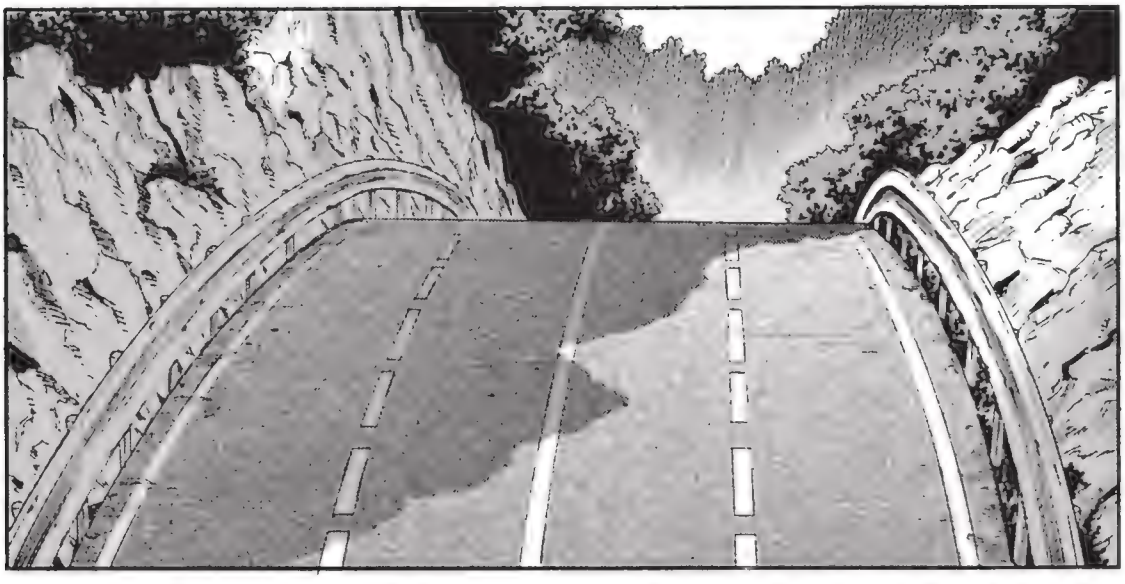

CHAKK CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK


CHAKK
CHAKK



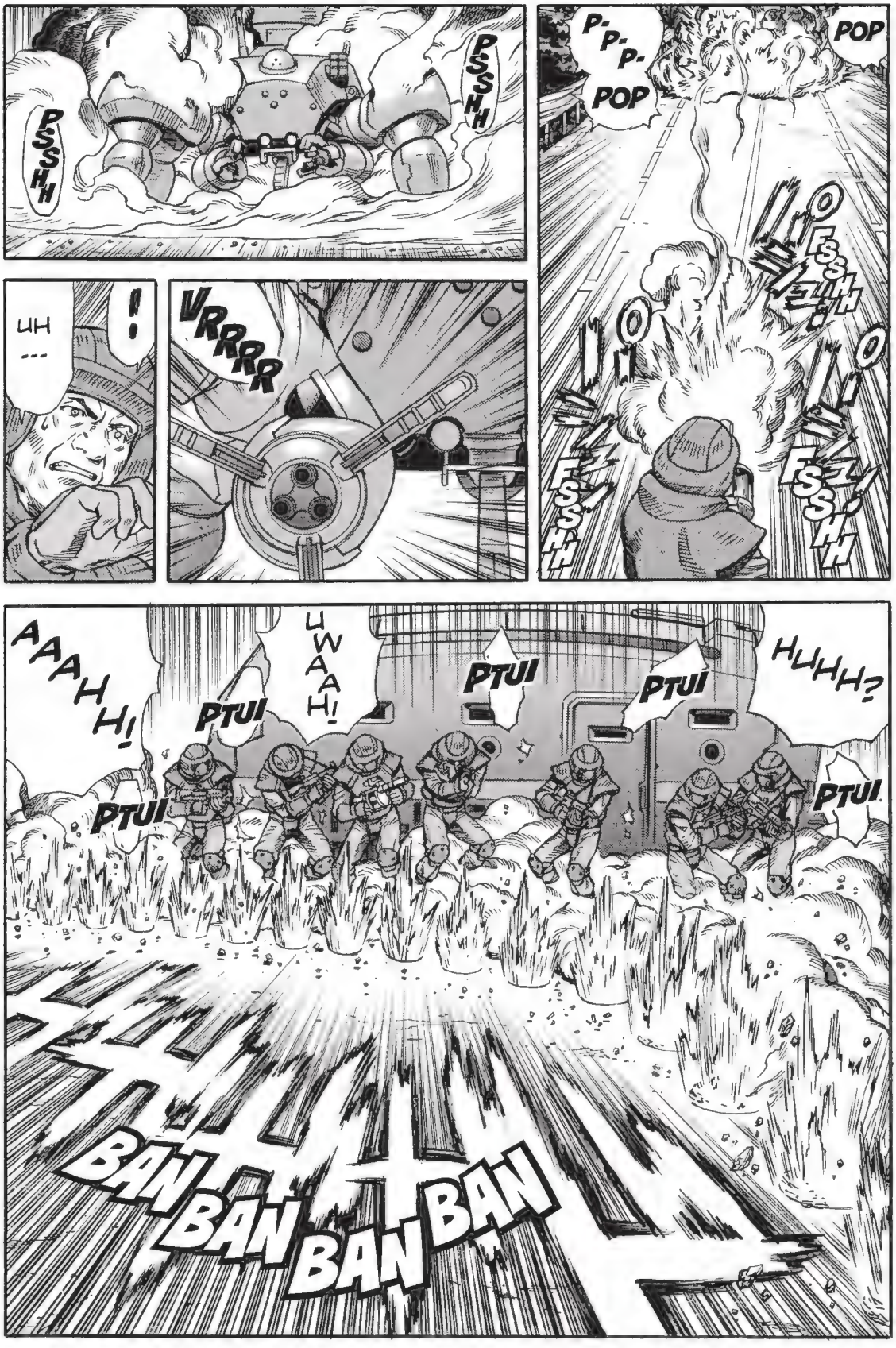

POLICE

THE SWAT TEAM IS GONNA BLOW IT TO PIECES!
HERE COMES THE RUNAWAY TANK.



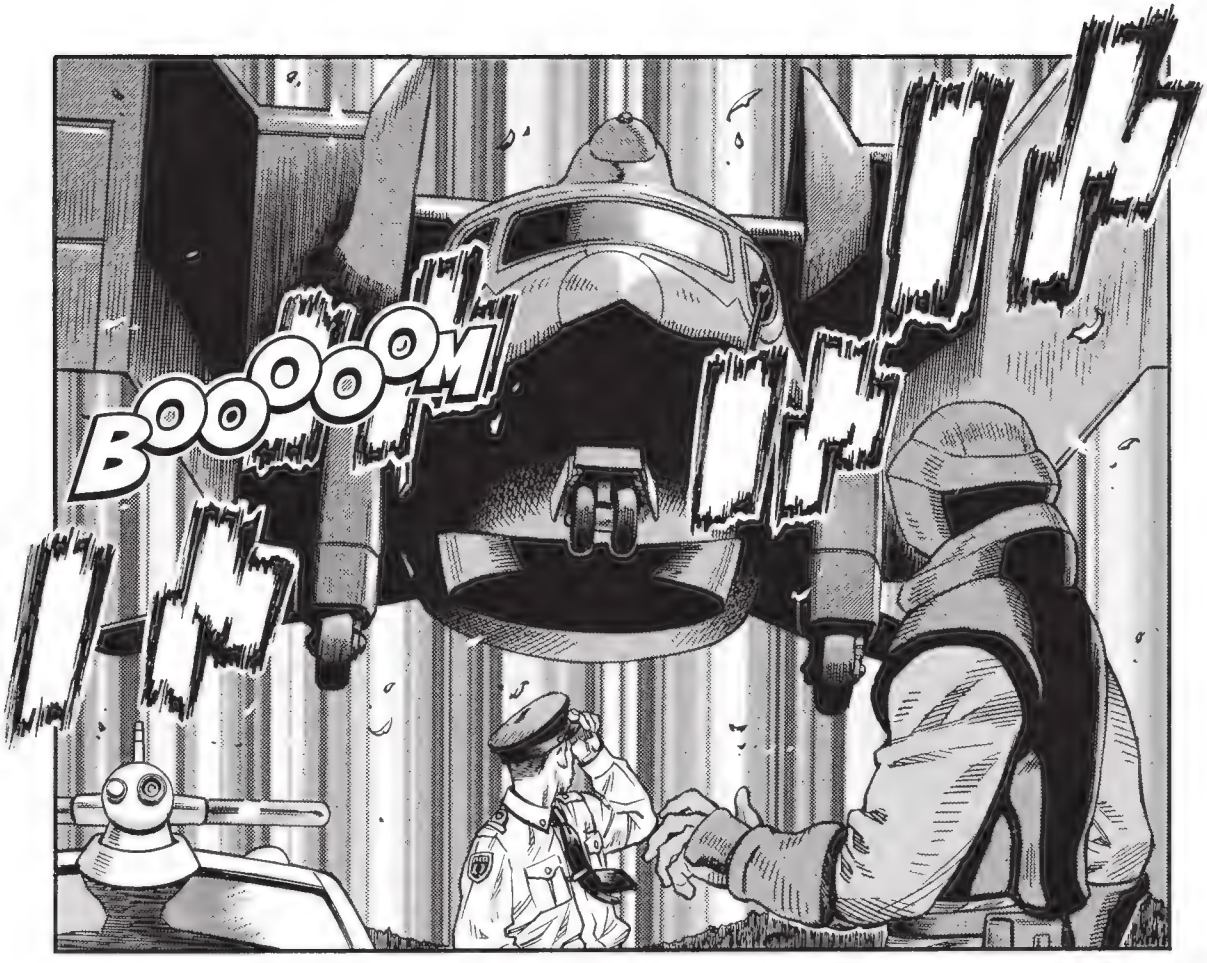
THUD
CLANK
CLANK
THUD
CLANK
HERE IT IS...
THUD

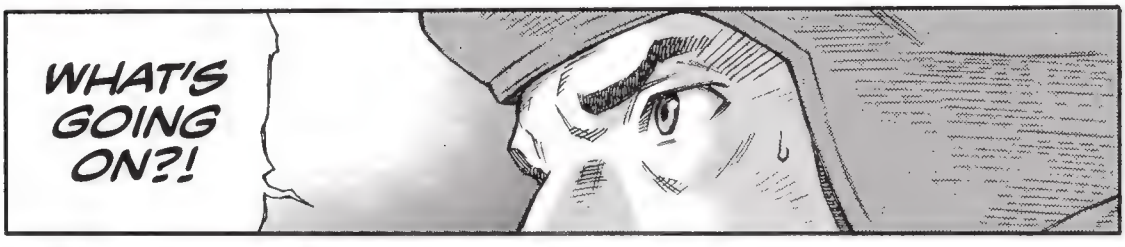
AIM...
...FIRE !!
TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
WHAT THE ...?!
DAMN!
BAM
PTUI PTUI PTUI PTUI PTUI PTUI PTUI PTUI

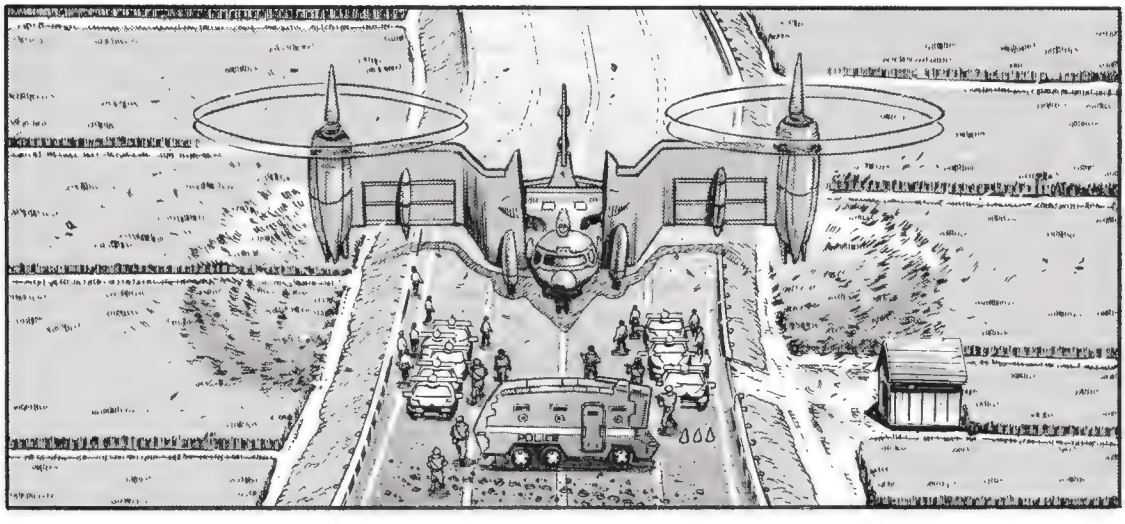

PSSHH
PSSHH
P-P-P-
POP
POP
FSSHH
FSSHH
FSSHH
UH

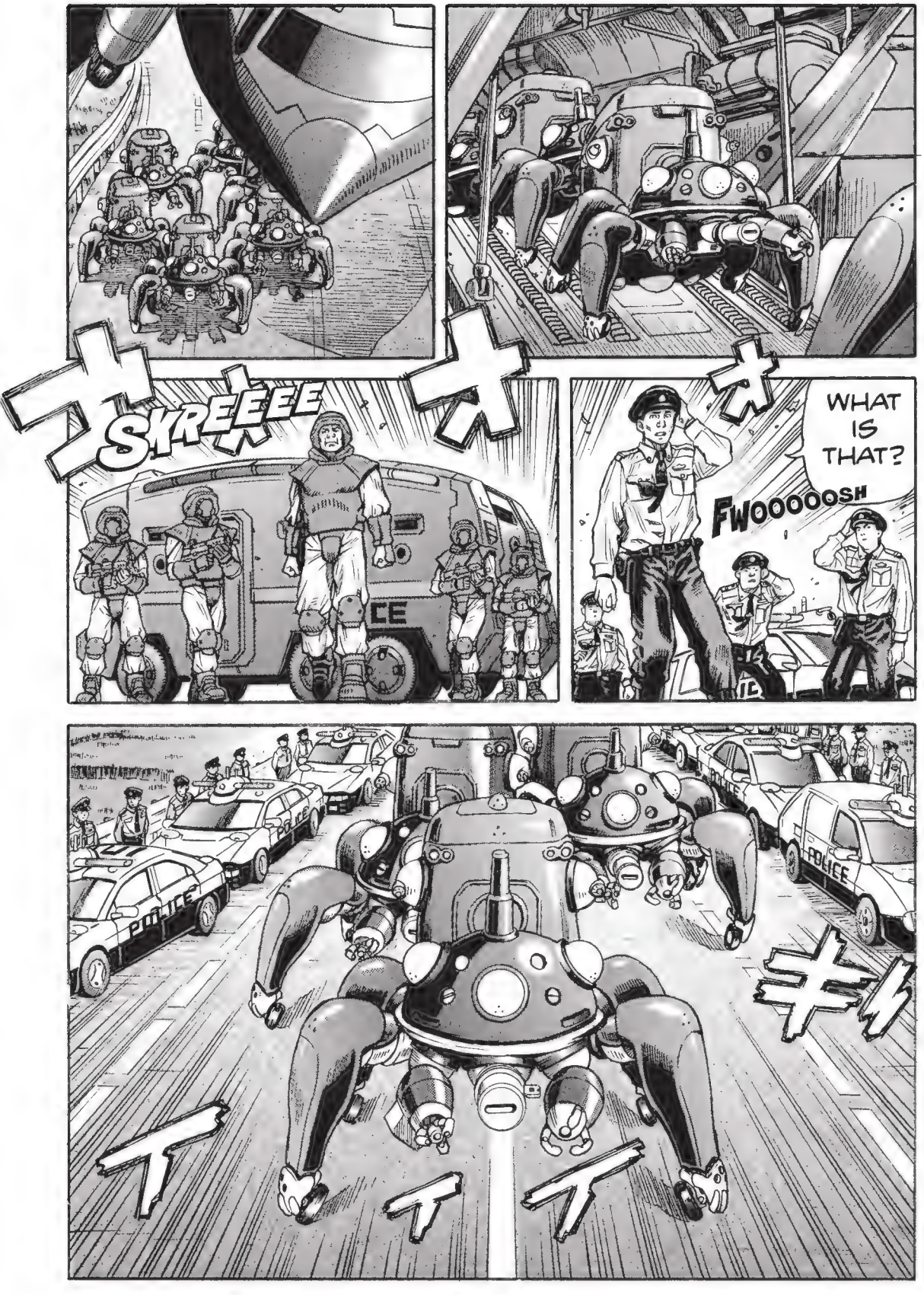
!
VRRRR
AAAHH!
PTUI
UWAAH!
PTUI
PTUI
HUHH?
PTUI
PTUI
BAN BAN BAN BAN

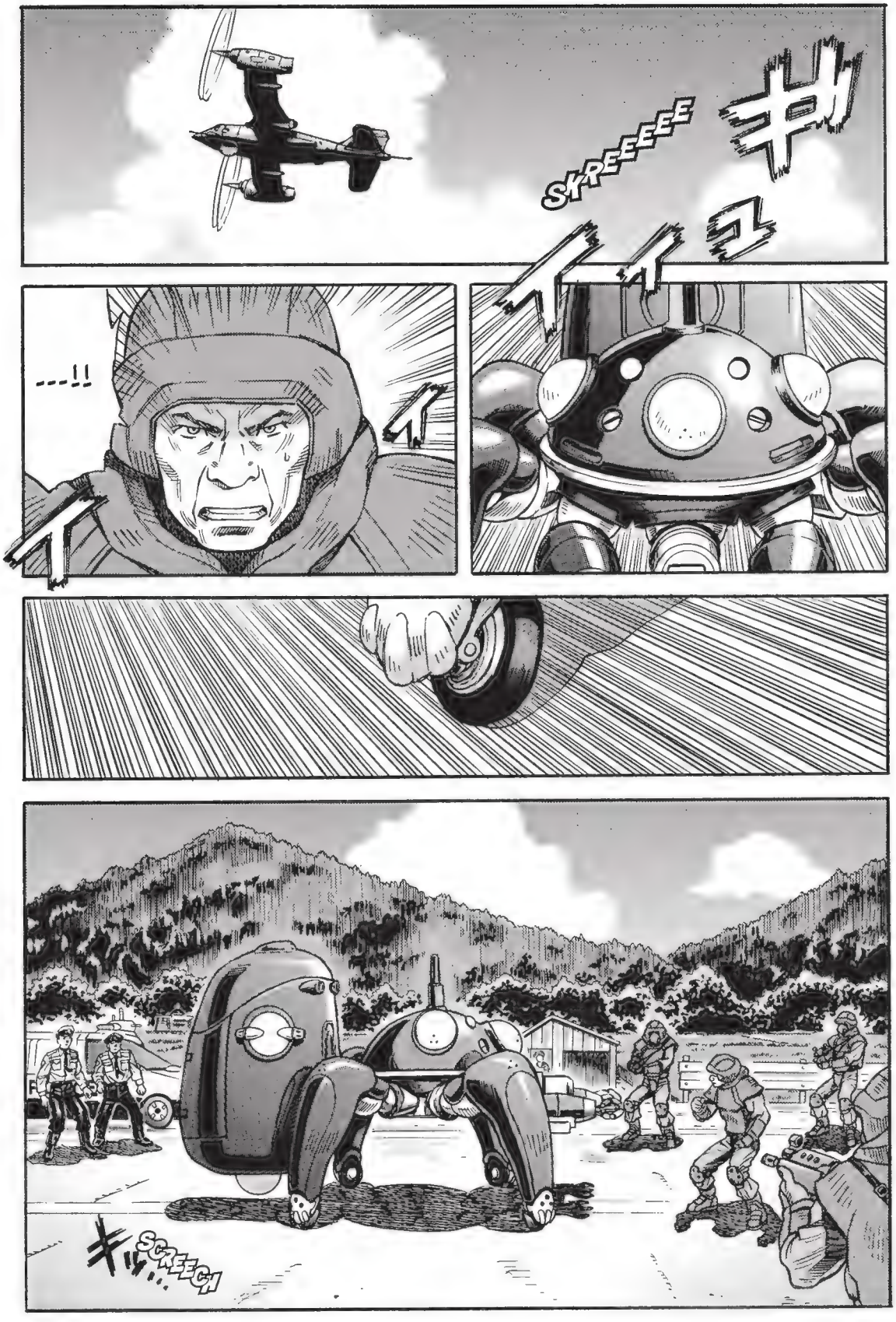
VRRRR
FSSH
FSSH
CLINK
CLANG
RE-TREAAAT!
TMP
TMP
RE-TREAT!
DAMN IT... RE-TREAT !!
HOW MUCH FRICKIN' ARMOR DOES IT HAVE?
CLENCH
WHAT THE ...?!
!
TMP
TMP
TMP
DAMNED MON-STER TANK ...!!
TMP
TMP

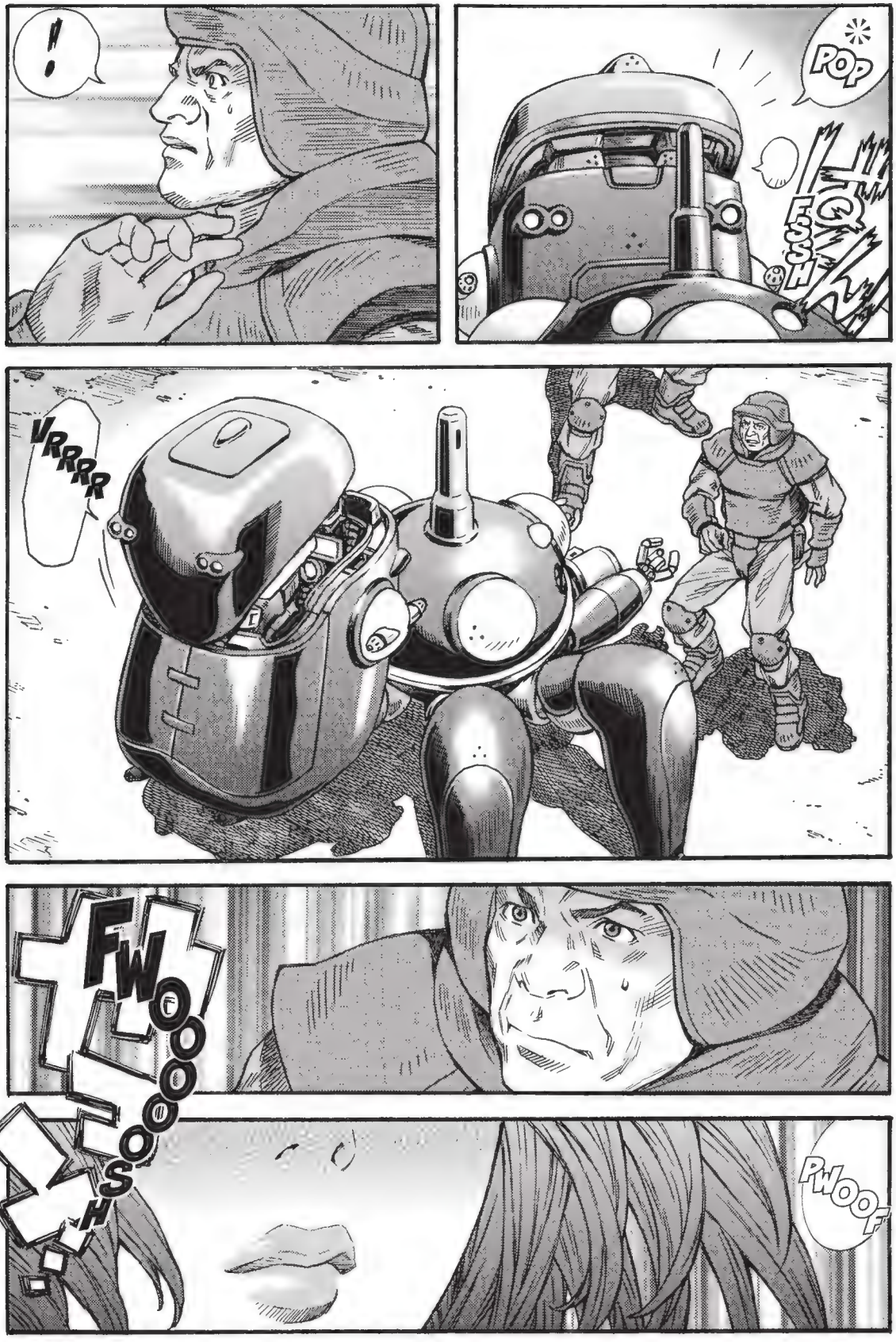

BOOOOOM


WHAT'S GOING ON?!

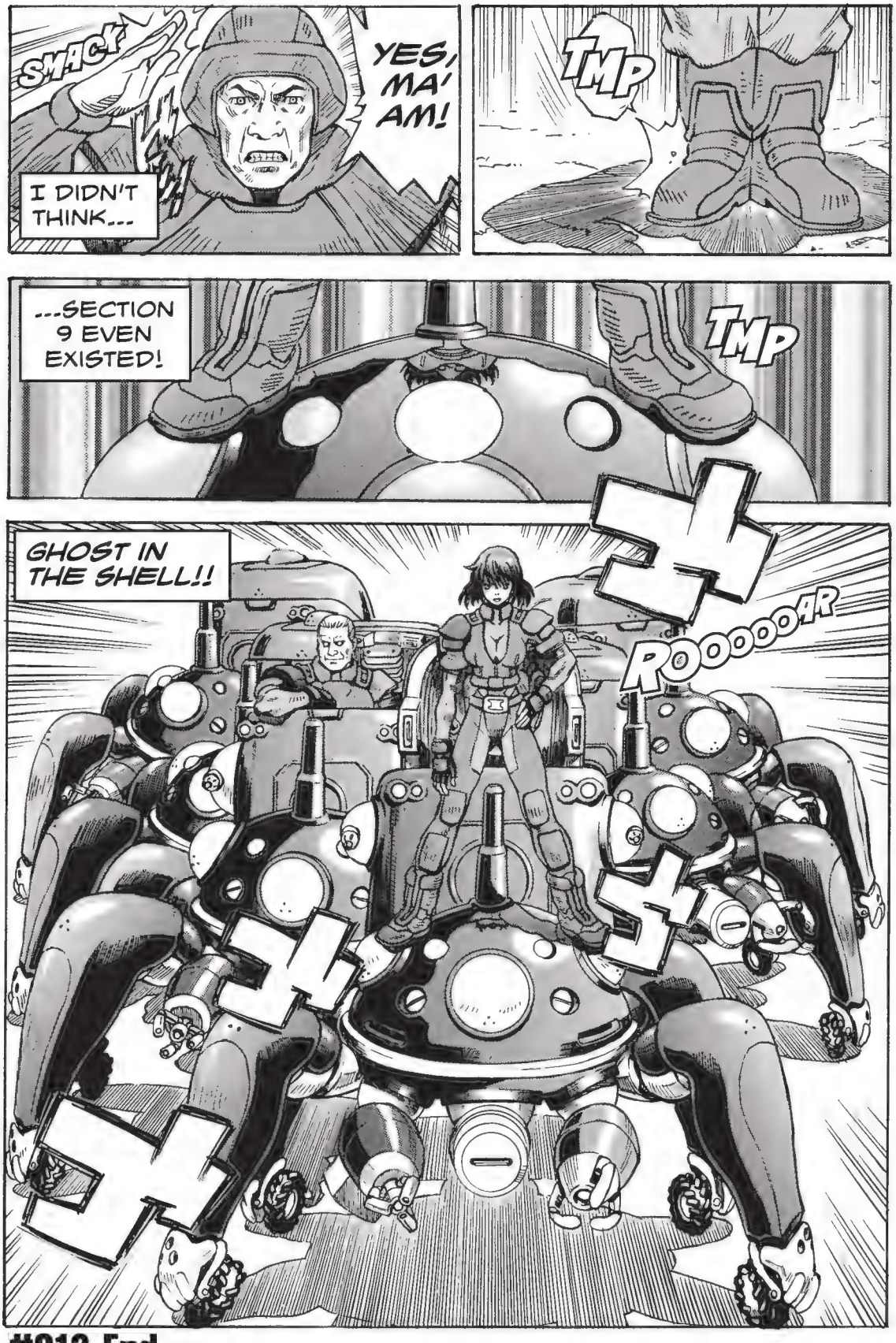

POLICE


SKREEEEE
WHAT IS THAT?
FWOOOOOSH
POLICE
POLICE


SKREEEEEE
---!!
SCREECH

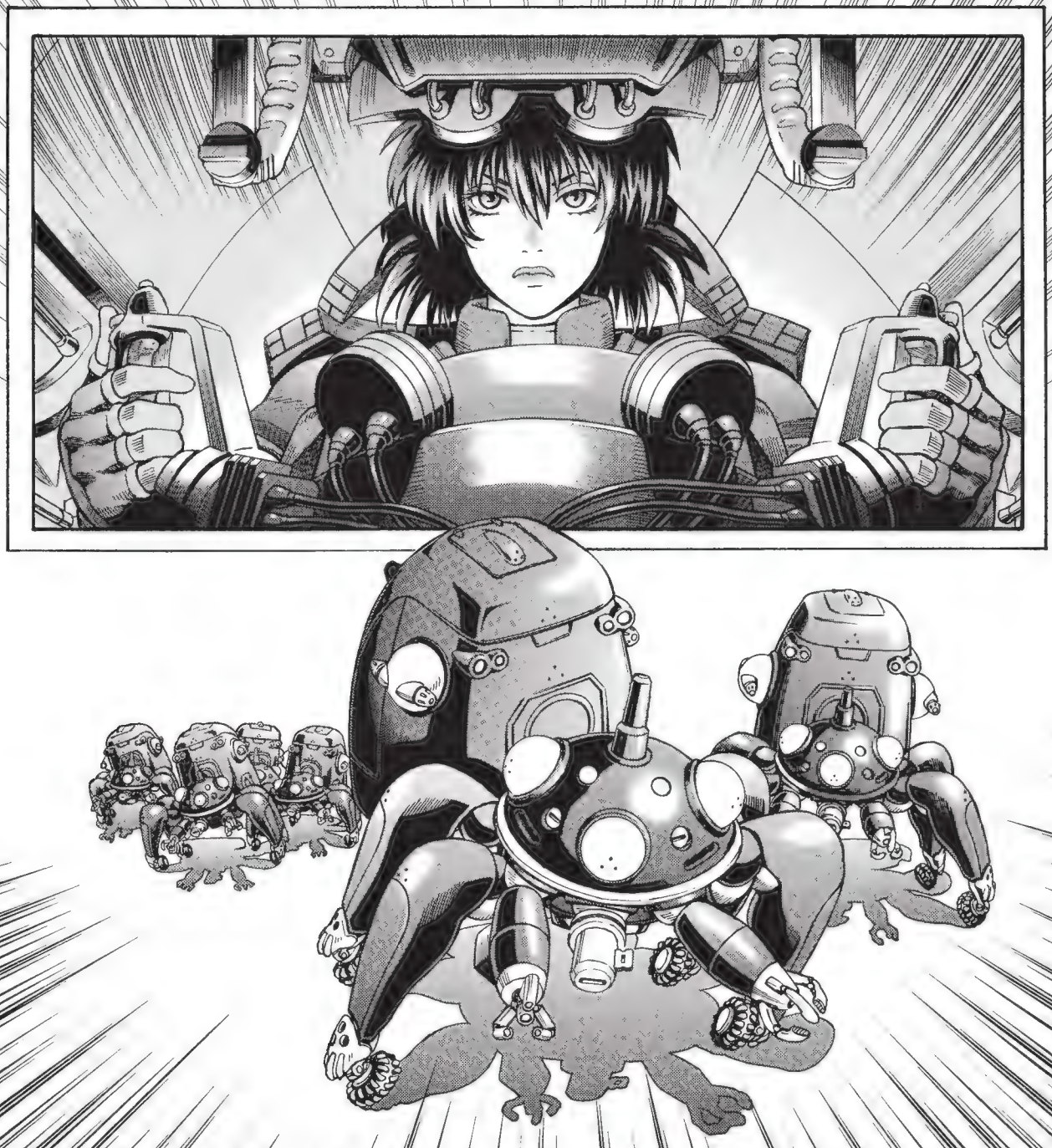

!
POP
FSSSH
VRRRRR
FWOOOOOOSH
PWOOF

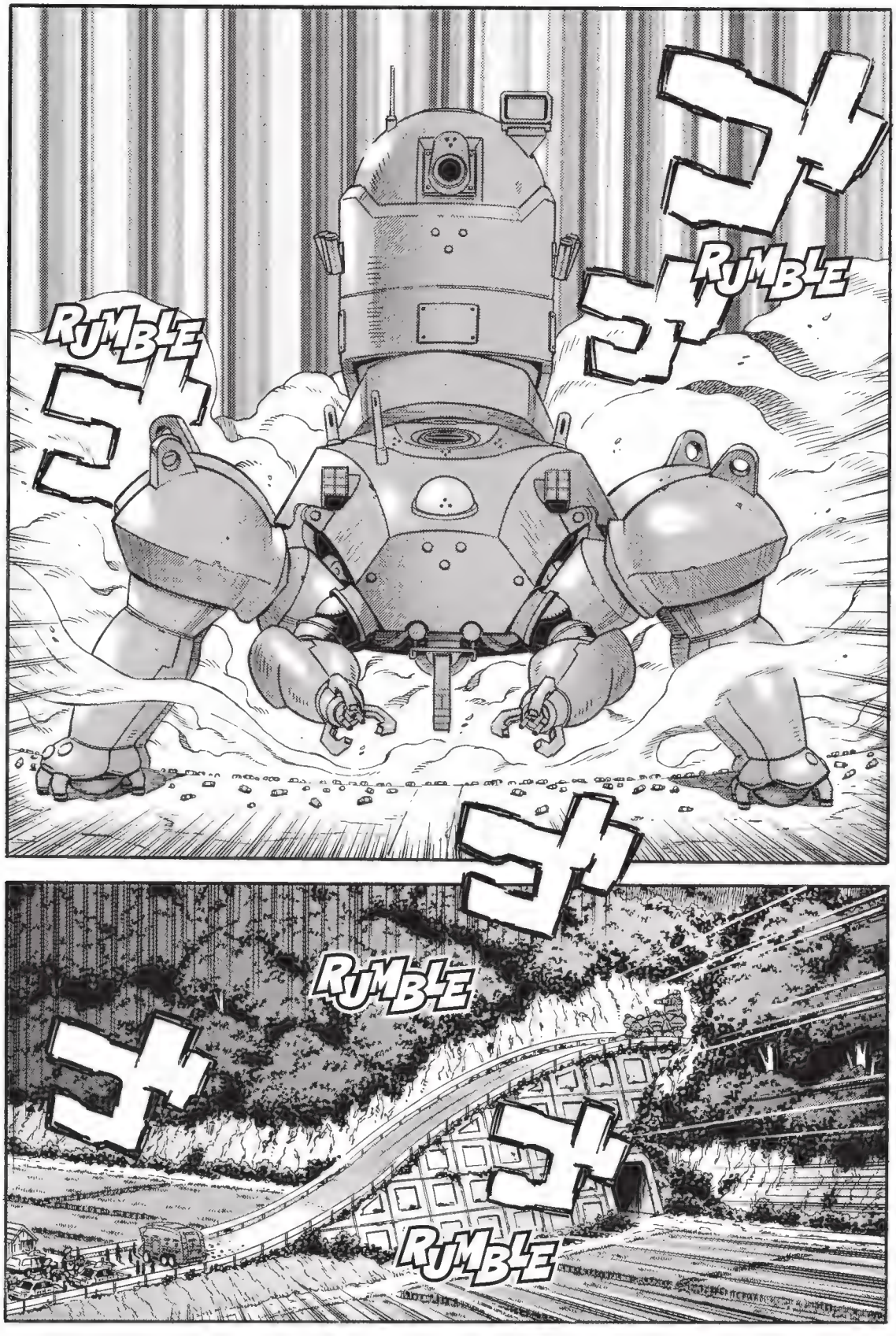
SECTION 9 WILL TAKE OVER FROM HERE.
CLEAR THE ROAD.
SEC-TION 9...
AH ---!
I GUESS IT'S SEC-TION 9?
UH ---
WHAT?
NO WAY ---
SEC-TION 9?

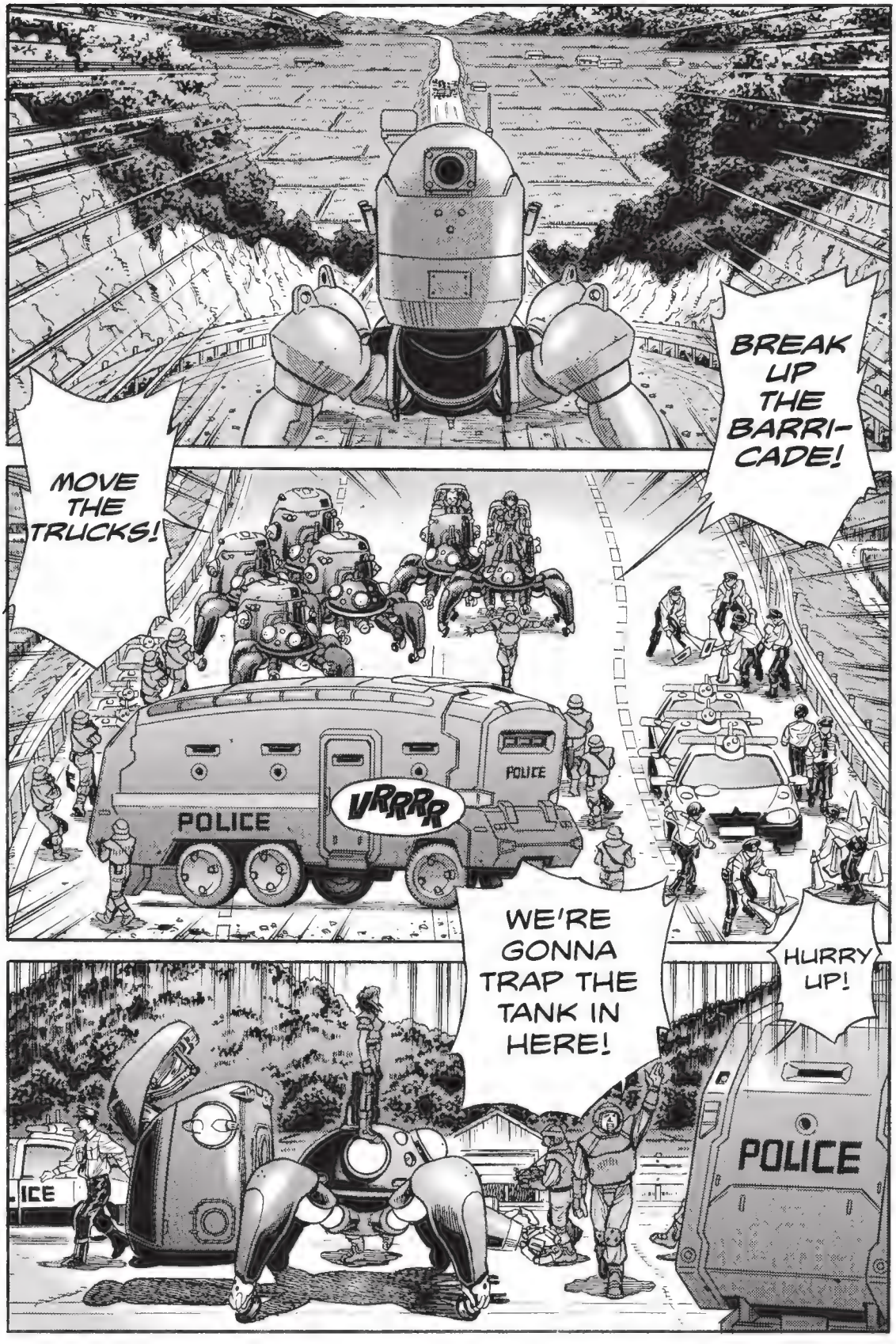

SMACK
YES, MA'AM!
I DIDN'T THINK...
TMP
...SECTION 9 EVEN EXISTED!
TMP
GHOST IN THE SHELL!!
ROOOOOAR

#012 End

#013: Disclosure

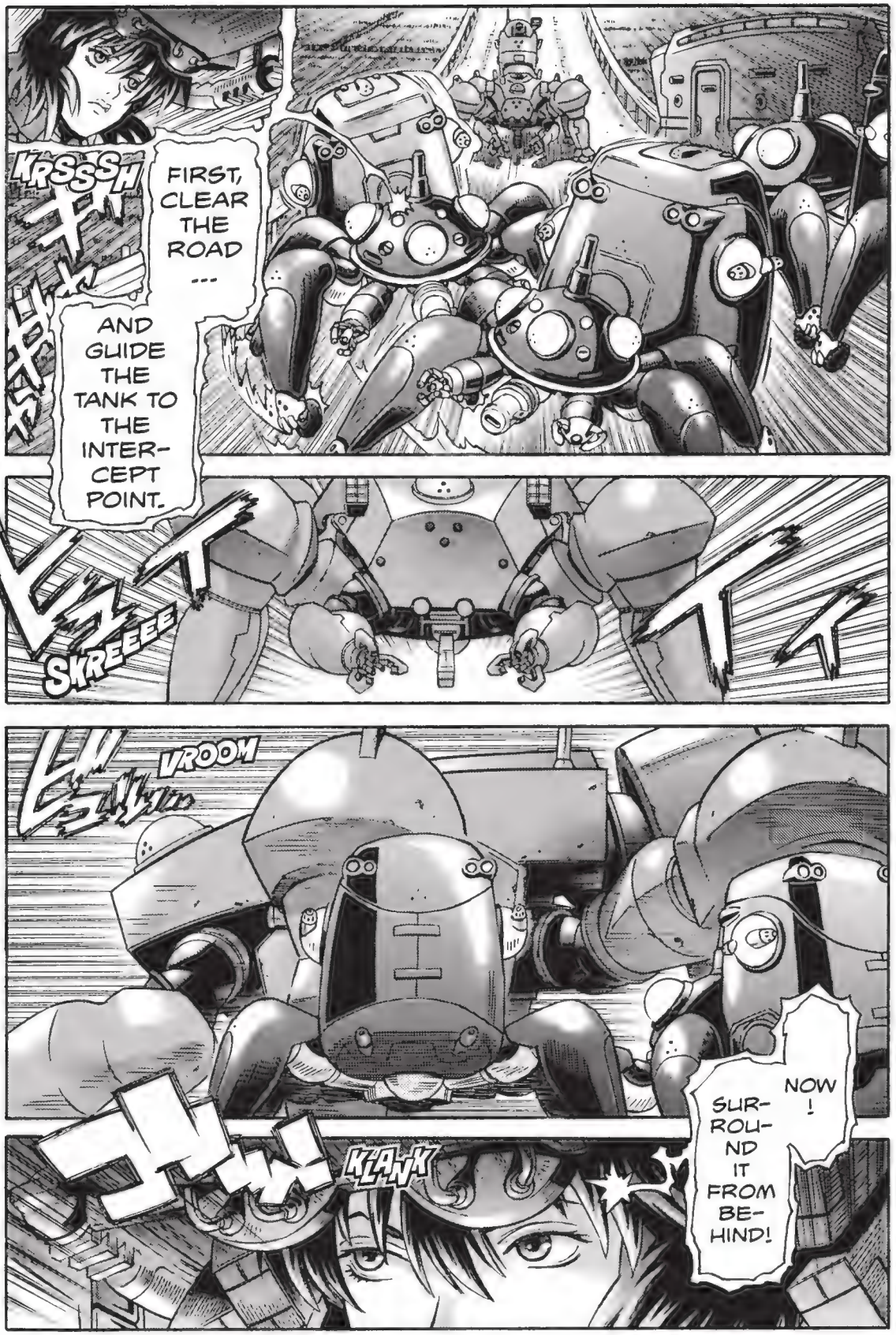



ゴ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴ
ゴ
RUMBLE
ゴ
ゴ
RUMBLE

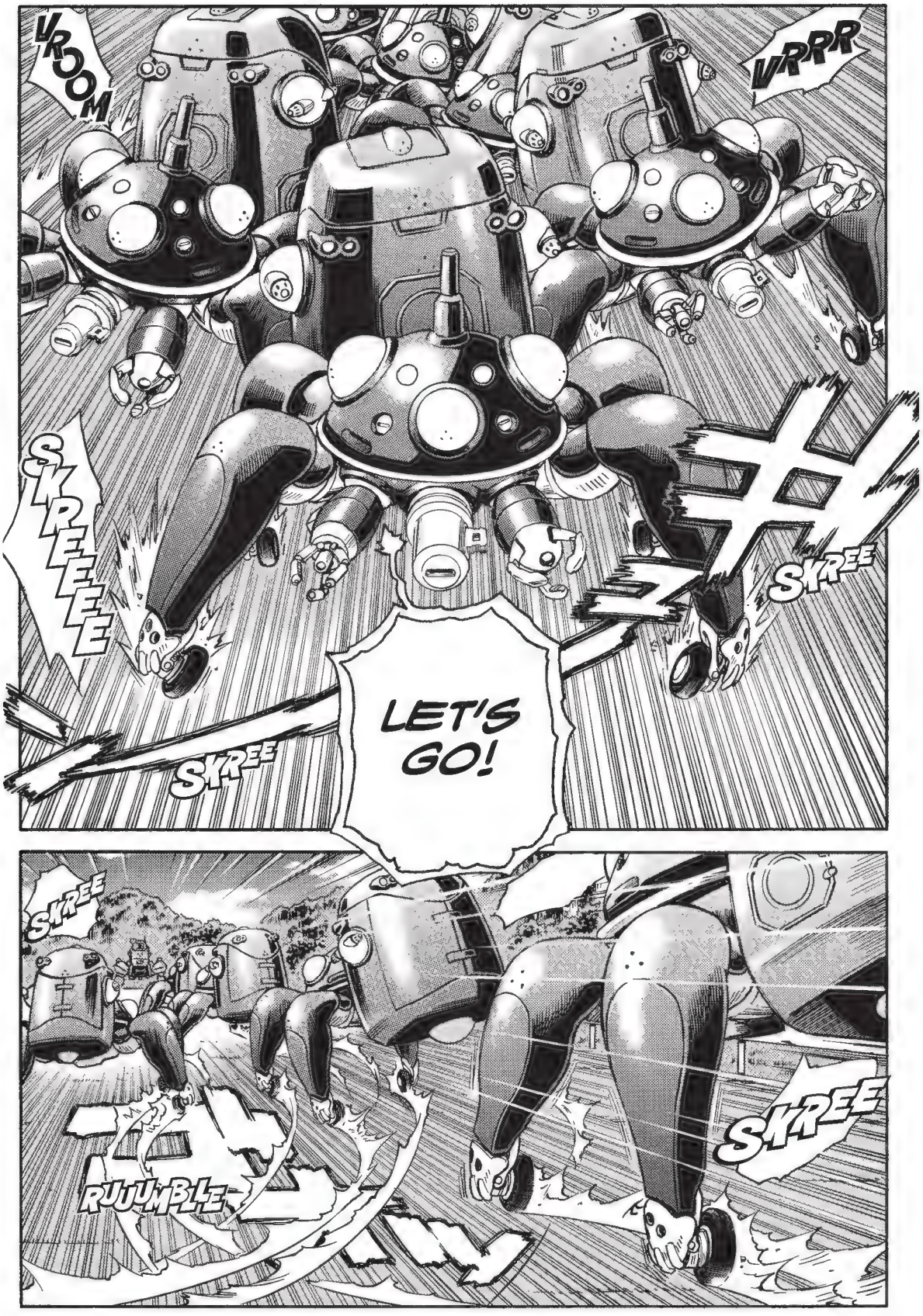

BREAK UP THE BARRI-CADE!
MOVE THE TRUCKS!
POLICE
VRRRRR
POLICE
WE'RE GONNA TRAP THE TANK IN HERE!
HURRY UP!
POLICE

UNIT 3, STAND BY!
GOOD WORK. LEAVE THE REST TO US.
CLENCH
THAT TANK IS EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY FROM KENBI-SHI.
IT'S NOT JUST ANY TANK.
YOU SURE YOU CAN STOP IT?
THAT'S WHAT...
...SEC-TION 9 IS FOR!

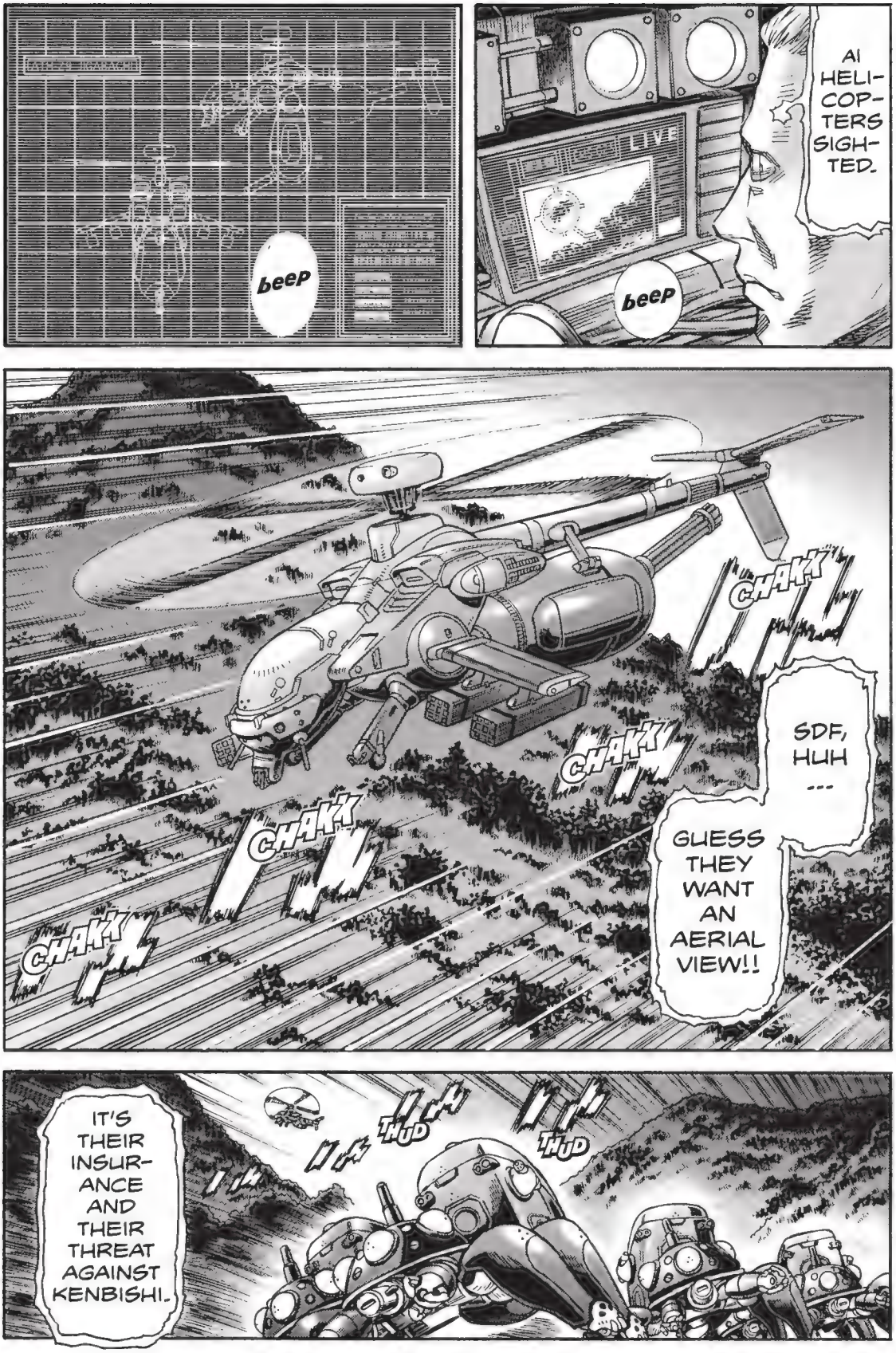
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHREE
MISSION COMPLETE! RETURN TO HEADQUARTERS!
WHAT'S WITH THIS LADY?
BANG
FWOOOOOSH
!!
HERE IT COMES!!
YEP!
READY, BATŌ?
FWOOOOSH


KRSSSH
FIRST, CLEAR THE ROAD ---
AND GUIDE THE TANK TO THE INTER-CEPT POINT.
SKREEEE
VROOM
NOW!
SUR-ROU-ND IT FROM BE-HIND!
KLANK

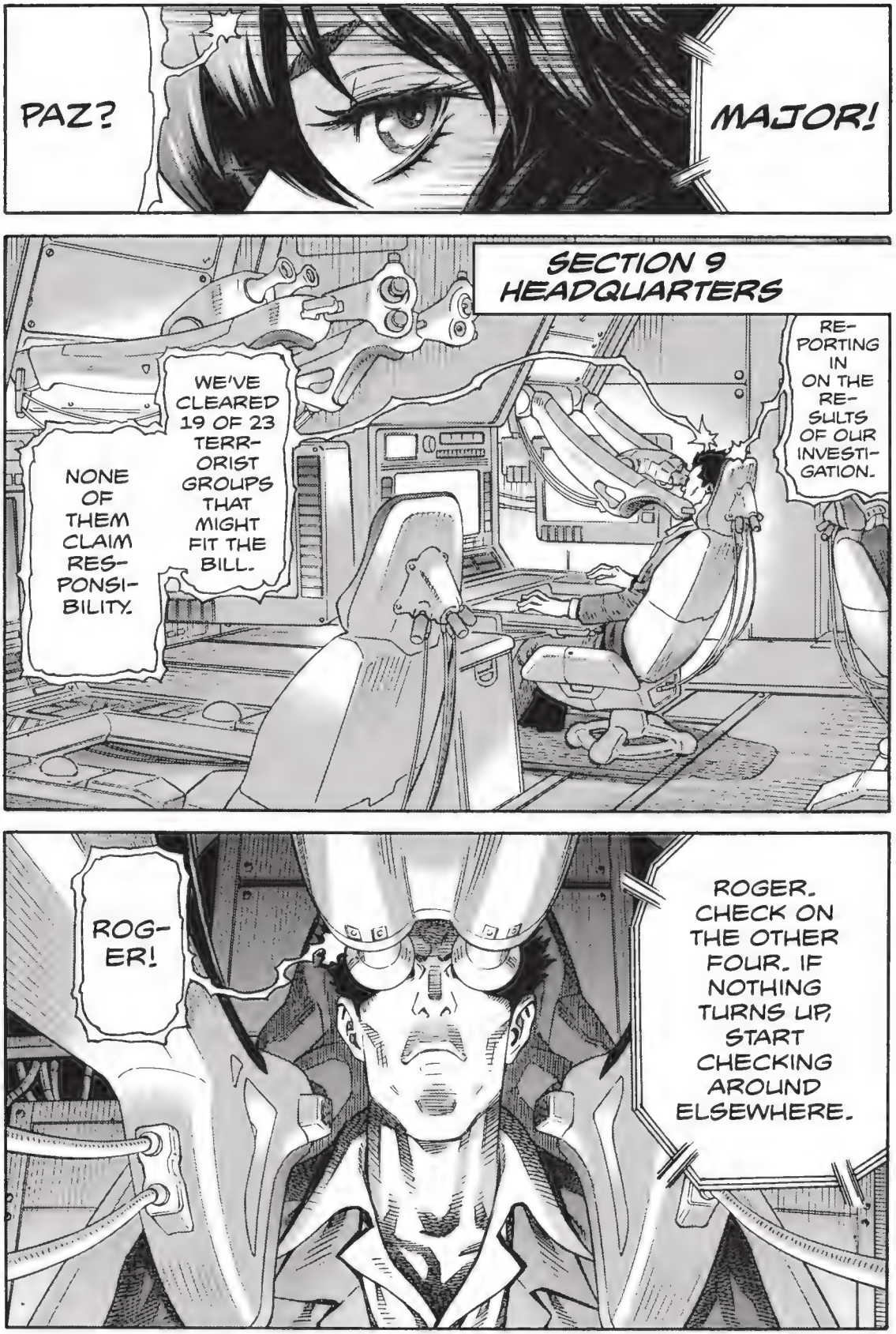
SKREEEEE
CLANG
OHHH, SO STRONG!
DON'T GET INTO HIS SIGHTS!
VRRRR
ROG-ER!
KEEP THIS DISTANCE UNTIL WE CAN LAUNCH THE COUNTER-ATTACK!!


VROOM
VRRR
SKREEEE
SKREE
SKREE
LET'S GO!
SKREE
RUUUMBLE
SKREE

ME TOO ---
---CAN'T BELIEVE THEY-'RE REAL.
FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SECTION 9.
DAMN IT ---
SCARED THE CRAP OUTTA ME!
RUMBLE
CHAK!
CHAK!
CHAK!
!


beep
beep
AI HELI-COP-TERS SIGH-TED.
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
SDF, HUH ---
GUESS THEY WANT AN AERIAL VIEW!!
THUD
THUD
IT'S THEIR INSUR-ANCE AND THEIR THREAT AGAINST KENBISHI.

SHOOOOOM
ANY WAY ---
WHAT IS THIS TANK DOING? WHERE'S HE GOING? IS THERE REALLY SOMEONE INSIDE OF IT?
LIVE
THE TACHIKOMA WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE, BUT THE FACT IT'S COMPLETELY IGNORING THEM PISSES ME OFF!
RUMBLE
GO AHEAD AND GET OUT IN FRONT, THEN.
JUST JOKING.
WAITING FOR INFORMATION FROM TOGUSA.


PAZ?
MAJOR!
SECTION 9 HEADQUARTERS
NONE OF THEM CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY.
WE'VE CLEARED 19 OF 23 TERRORIST GROUPS THAT MIGHT FIT THE BILL.
REPORTING IN ON THE RESULTS OF OUR INVESTIGATION.
ROGER!
ROGER. CHECK ON THE OTHER FOUR. IF NOTHING TURNS UP, START CHECKING AROUND ELSEWHERE.

RUMBLE
SO EITHER SOME-ONE STOLE A TANK ---
---OR IT WAS AN AI MAL-FUNC-TION, RIGHT?
ANYONE WHO'D STEAL A TANK IS A TERR-ORIST.
KRSSSH
ZOOOOM
YEAH, YEAH.
WELL, WE'LL SEE WHAT THE CHIEF SAYS!

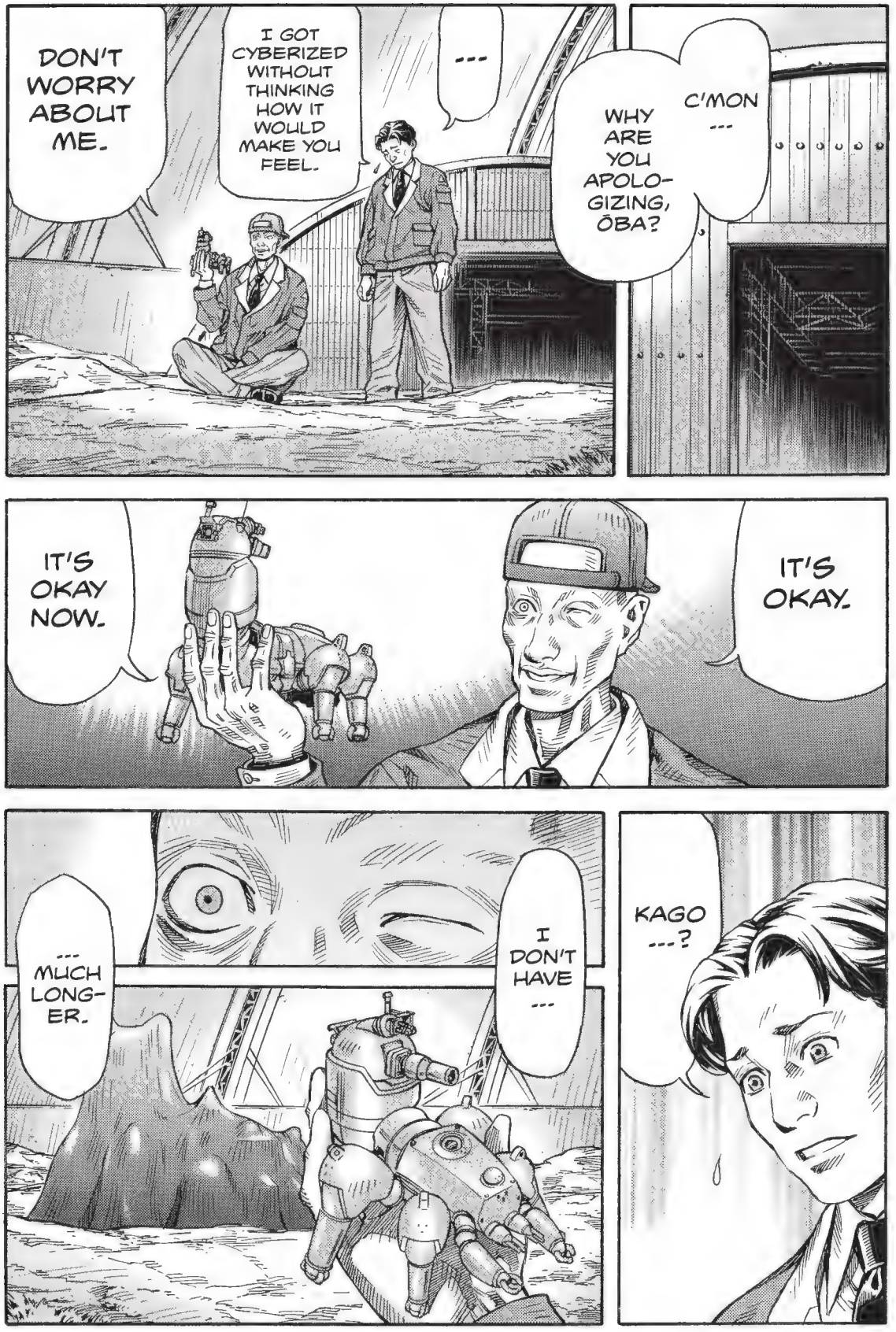
KENBISHI HEADQUARTERS
ŌBA IS A CO-WORKER OF TAKESHI KAGO, THE MAN WHO DESIGNED THE TANK.
HE'S AN ENGINEER WHO ALSO WORKED ON THE PROJECT.
HE PERFORMED MAINTENANCE ON THE TANK JUST BEFORE IT WENT HAYWIRE.
FIND OUT EVERYTHING HE KNOWS.
I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT OF KENBISHI.
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!

ARE YOU ŌBA-SAN?
creak

SORRY TO INTER-RUPT AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
WE KNOCK-ED BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER.
THUNK
--- ABOUT THE TANK.
--- WHAT YOU KNOW ---
WE'D LIKE TO HEAR ---
CLENCH
--- DEVEL-OPED IT TOGET-HER, COR-RECT ?
---AND TAKESHI KAGO-SAN, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK ---
YOU ---
HAW206, THE ONE THAT WENT HAY-WIRE.
ANY IDEA WHO IT COULD BE?
---IS BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE WHO IS USING KAGO-SAN'S ID CODE.
THE RUN-AWAY TANK ---

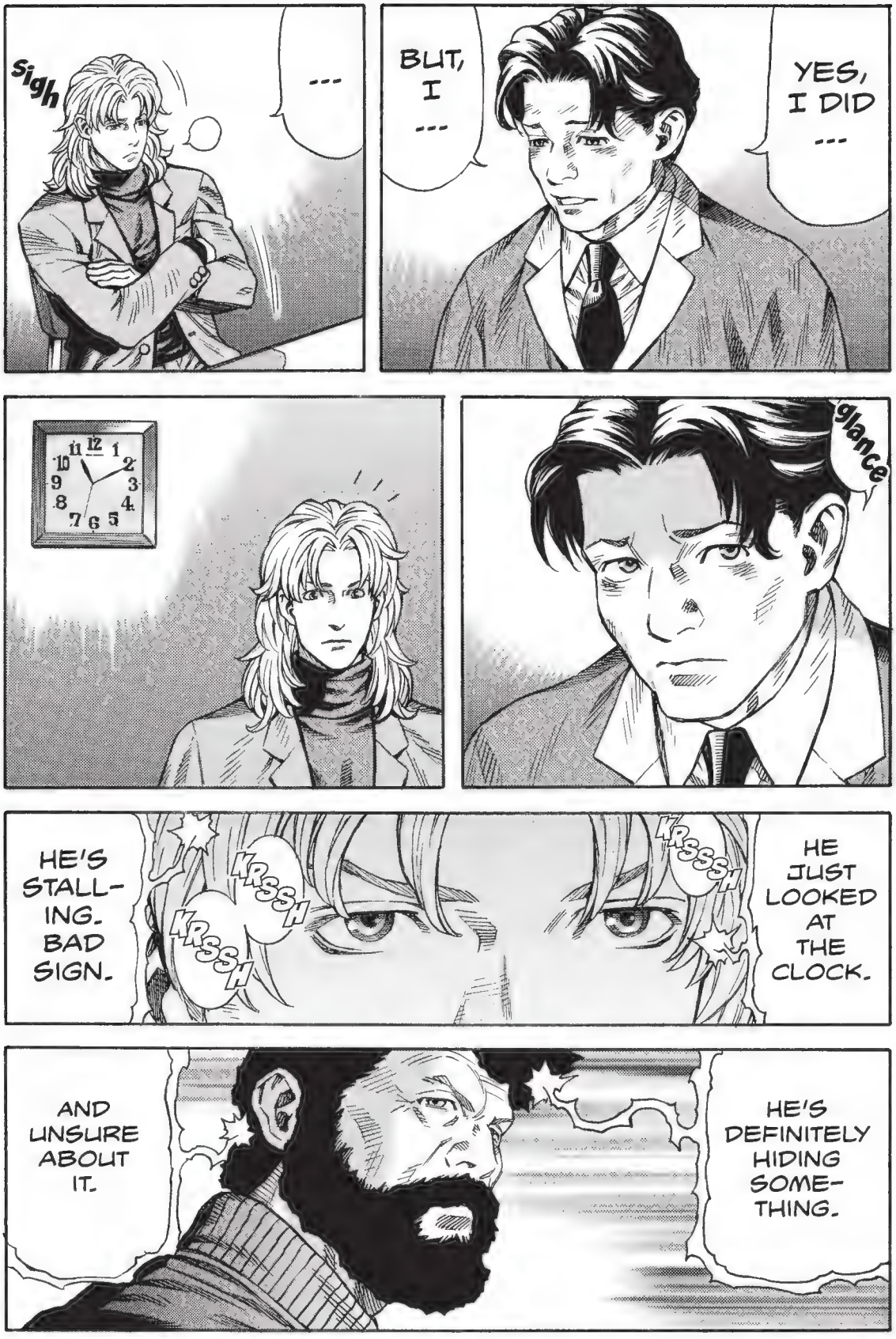
ŌBA-SAN!
BOTH KAGO AND MYSELF ---
--- HAVE BEEN SICKLY EVER SINCE BIRTH ---
--- DESTINED TO HAVE SHORT LIVES.
I SURVIVED AFTER I WAS CYBERIZED.
BUT KAGO ---
KAGO ---

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE ASKING ABOUT.
... WASN'T AS LUCKY.
AND WHERE IS IT HEADED ?
WHO'S CON-TROL-LING THE TANK?
FOR-GIVE ME, KAGO ---


DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I GOT CYBERIZED WITHOUT THINKING HOW IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL.

WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING, ŌBA?
C'MON ---
IT'S OKAY NOW.
IT'S OKAY.
... MUCH LONG-ER.
I DON'T HAVE ---
KAGO ---?

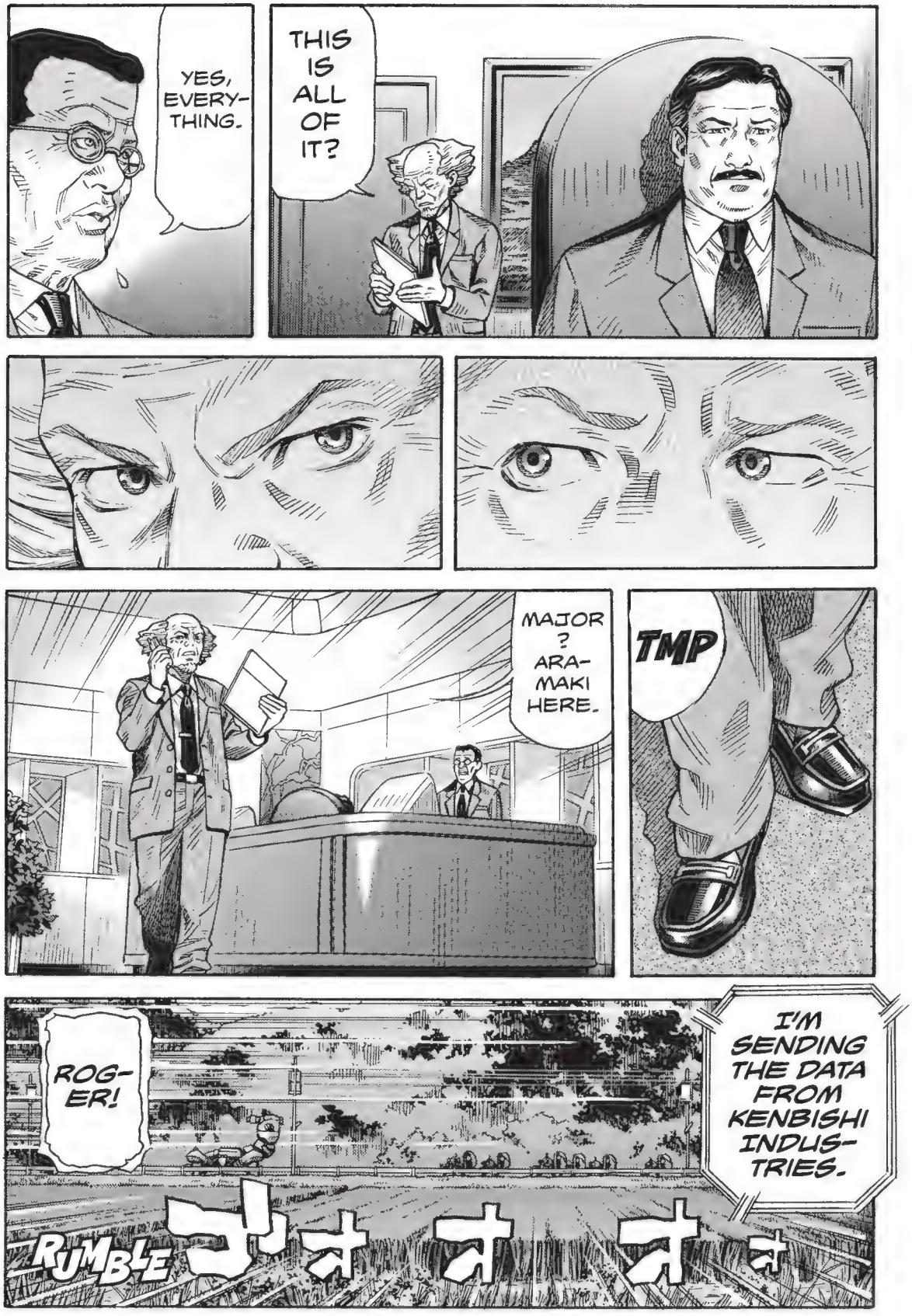
KAGO ---
ONLY YOU CAN DO THIS, ŌBA.
HEY ---
DON'T GIVE UP!
ŌBA ---
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDER-STANDS.
MY LAST RE-QUEST ---
FSSH
MY DYING WISH...
... SAN ?
ŌBA-SAN!
Y-YES ?
DID YOU REMEM-BER SOME-THING?
TELL ME ABOUT IT!


Sigh

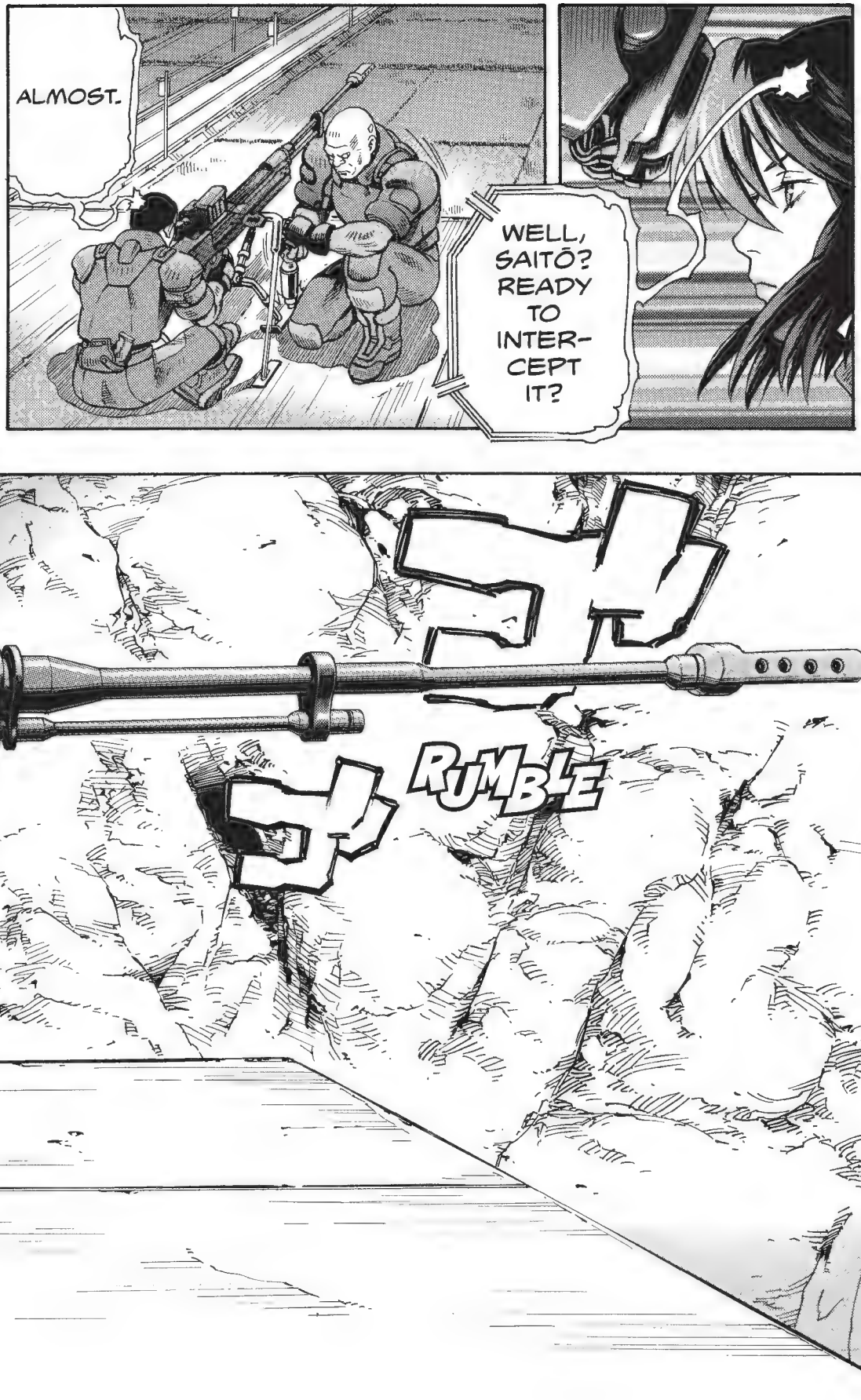
BUT, I ---
YES, I DID ---
glance
HE'S STALL-ING. BAD SIGN.
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRSSH
HE JUST LOOKED AT THE CLOCK.
AND UNSURE ABOUT IT.
HE'S DEFINITELY HIDING SOME-THING.

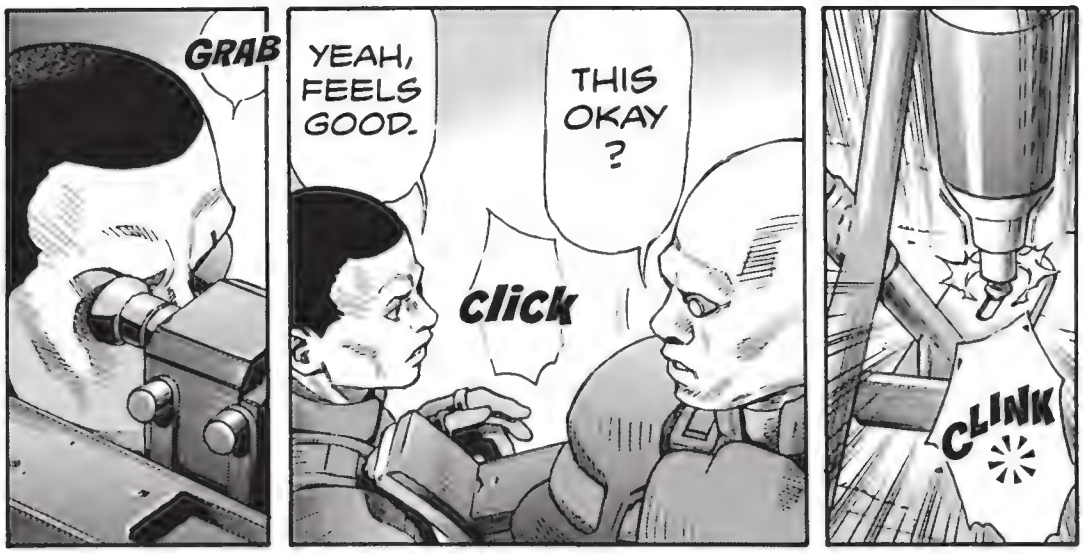
KENBISHI
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
IF YOU WANT TO MINIMIZE CASUAL-TIES...
YOU NEED TO GIVE US ALL THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE ON THE TANK!
UMM ...
UHH ...

GO AHEAD AND DO IT.
WELL, THAT ...
thunk
Y- YES, SIR.
HMM ...
HERE.
Kenbishi Industries
HAW206 Data

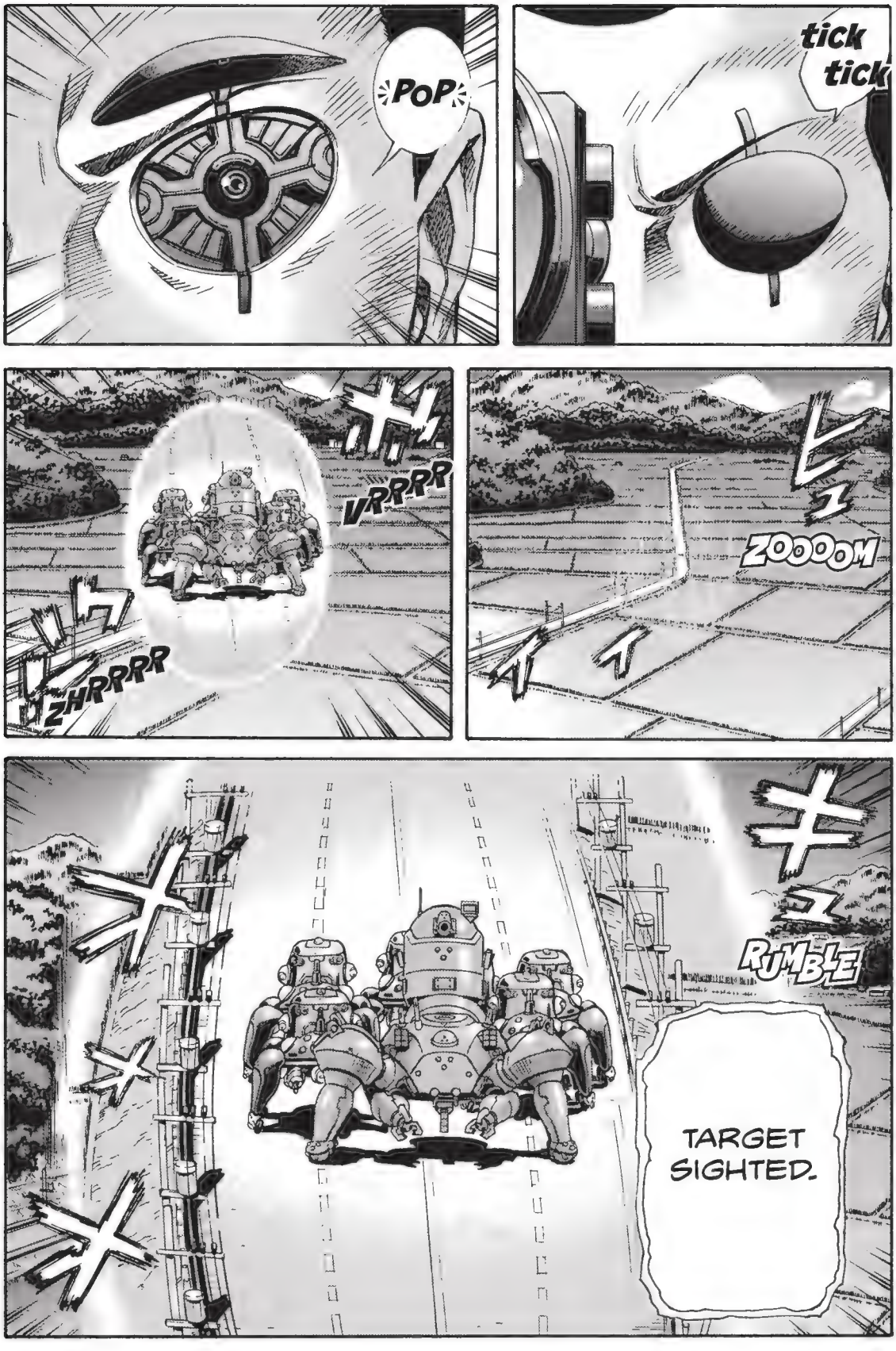

YES, EVERY-THING.
THIS IS ALL OF IT?
MAJOR? ARA-MAKI HERE.
TMP
I'M SENDING THE DATA FROM KENBISHI INDUS-TRIES.
ROG-ER!
RUMBLE ゴゴゴゴ

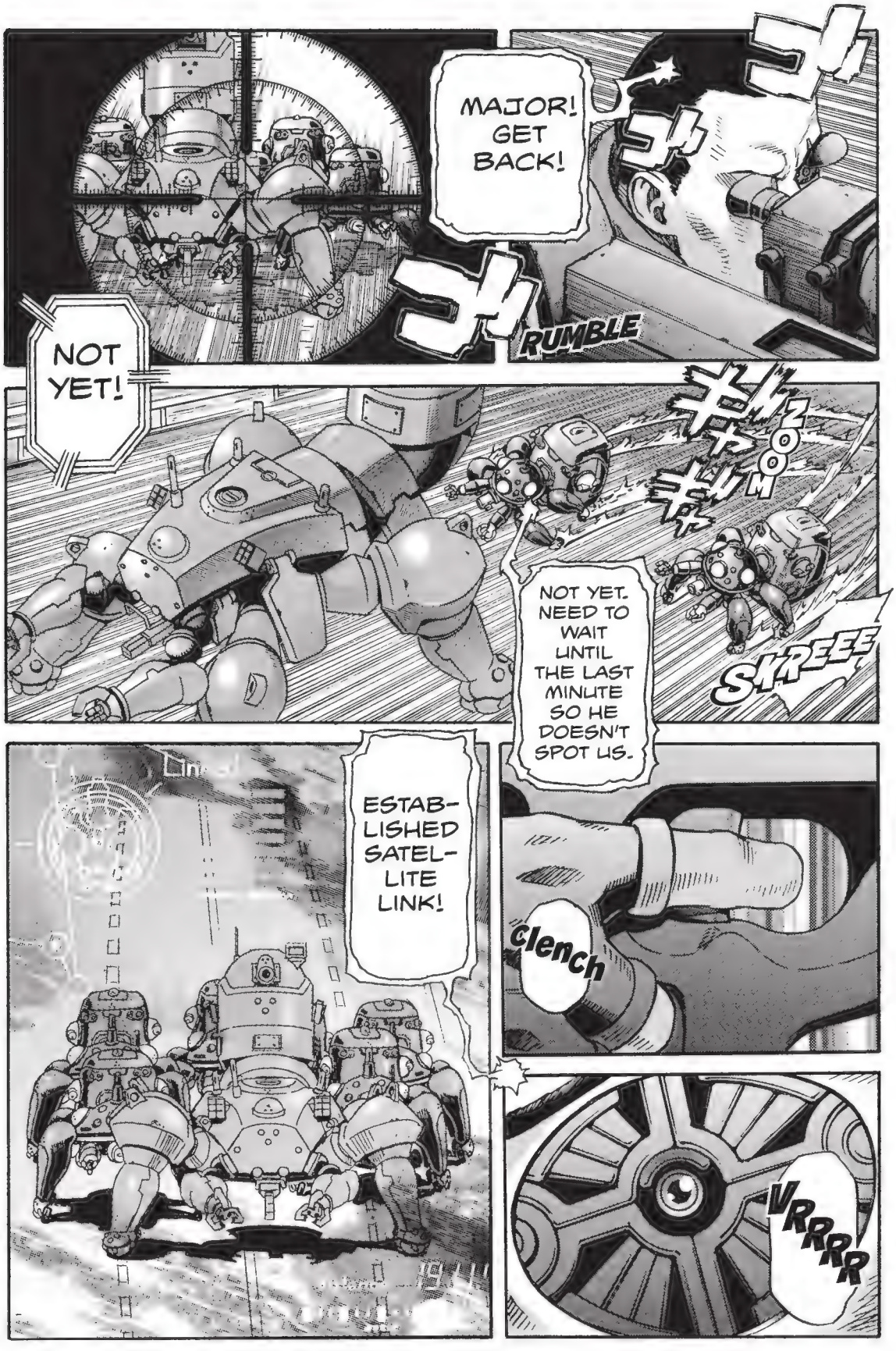
WHOOOOSH
GOT IT! WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE WITH THESE SPECS.
SKREEEE
ALMOST TO THE INTER-CEPT POINT!
beeP
WE'VE BEEN STARING AT THE ASS OF THIS TANK THIS WHOLE TIME.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


ALMOST.
WELL, SAITŌ? READY TO INTER-CEPT IT?
RUMBLE

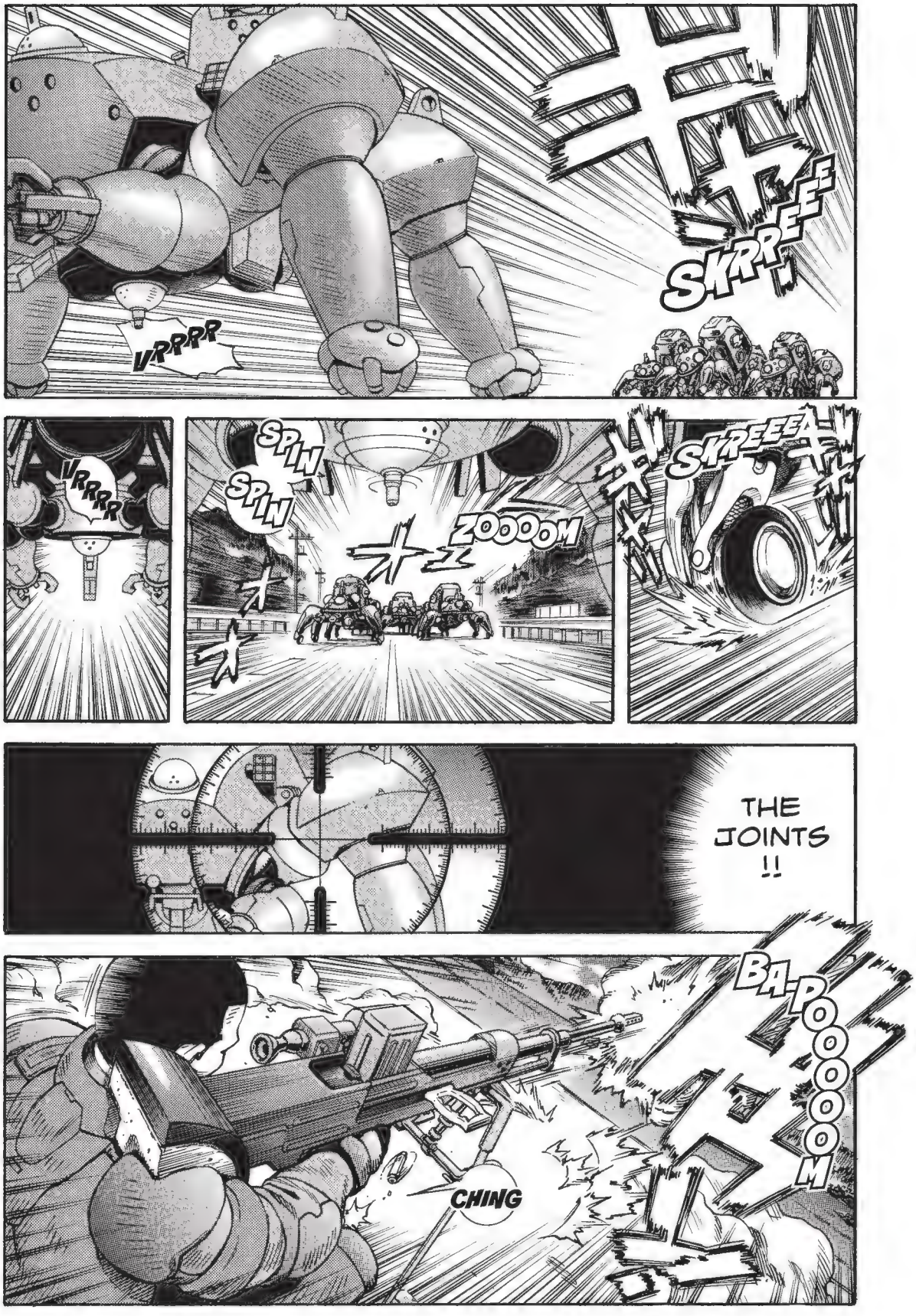

GRAB
YEAH, FEELS GOOD.
THIS OKAY ?
click
CLINK

RUMBLE
ゴ
ゴ

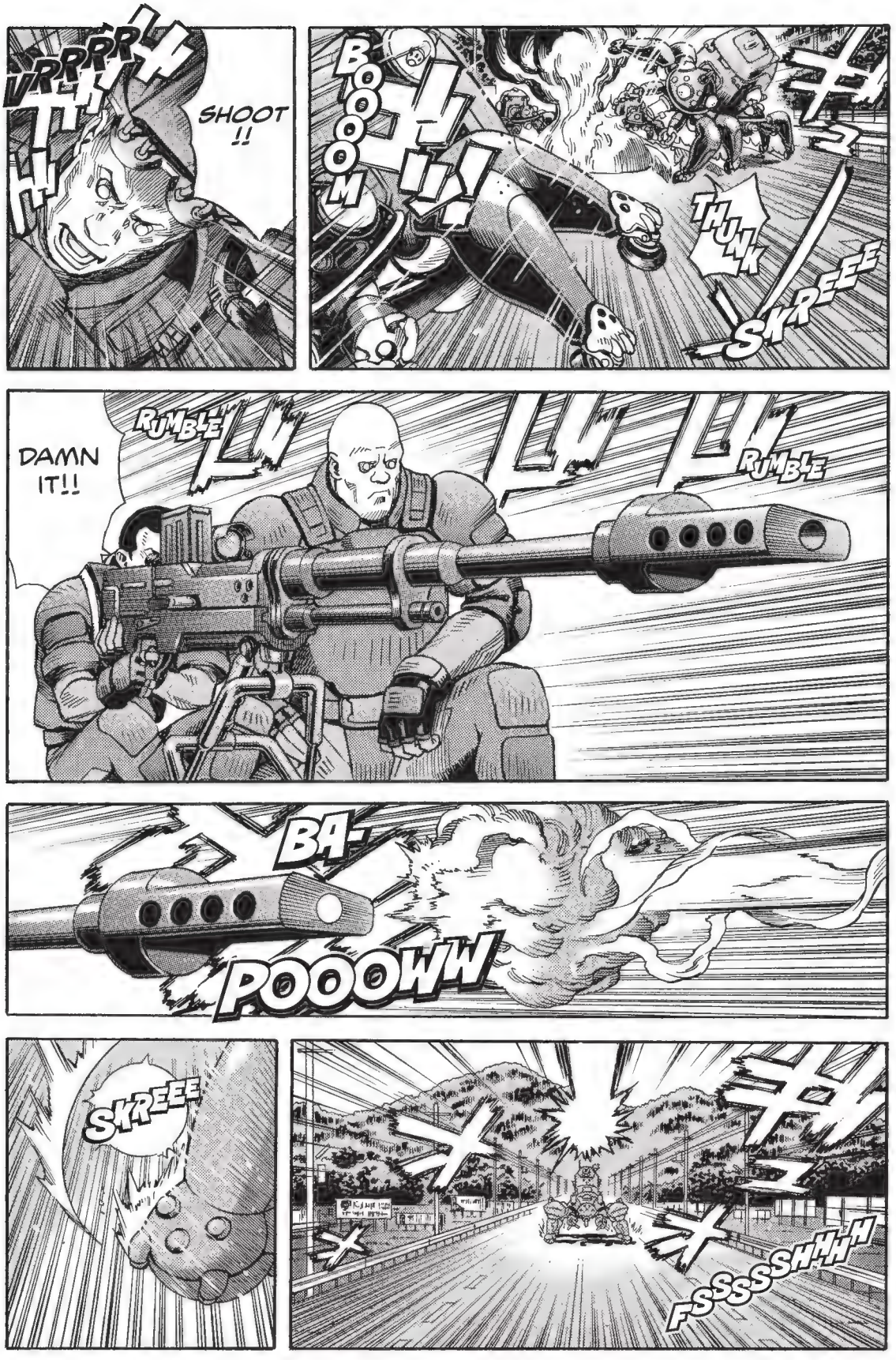

POP
tick tick
VRRRR
ZHRRRR
ZOOOOM
RUMBLE
TARGET SIGHTED.


MAJOR! GET BACK!
RUMBLE
NOT YET!
ZOOM
NOT YET. NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE SO HE DOESN'T SPOT US.
SKREEE
ESTAB-LISHED SATEL-LITE LINK!
Clench
VRRRRR

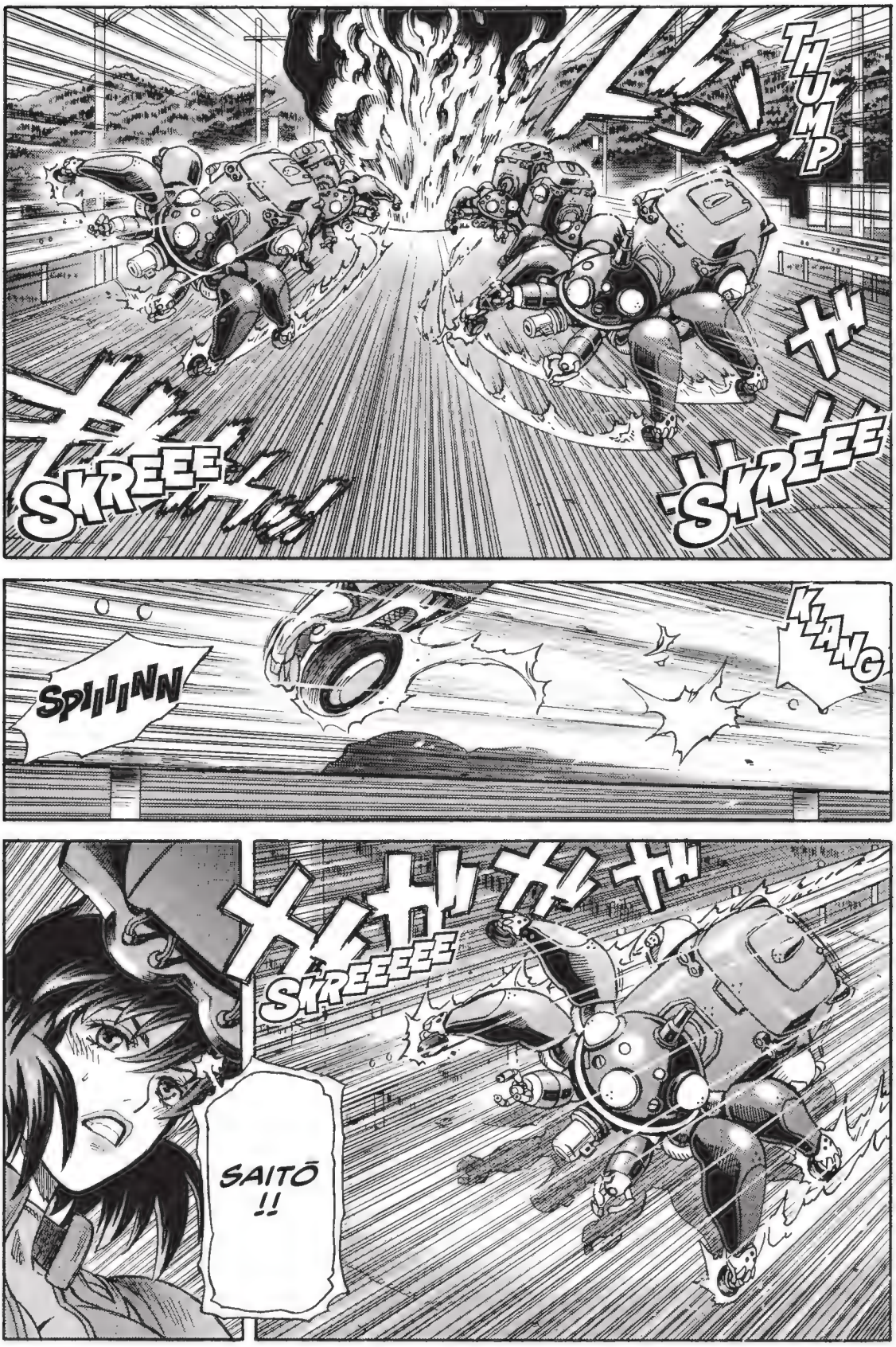
KRSSSH
SKREEEE
HERE GOES, MAJOR !!
WITH-DRAW NOW!!
SKRREE
SKRREE
UGHH!
THUMP

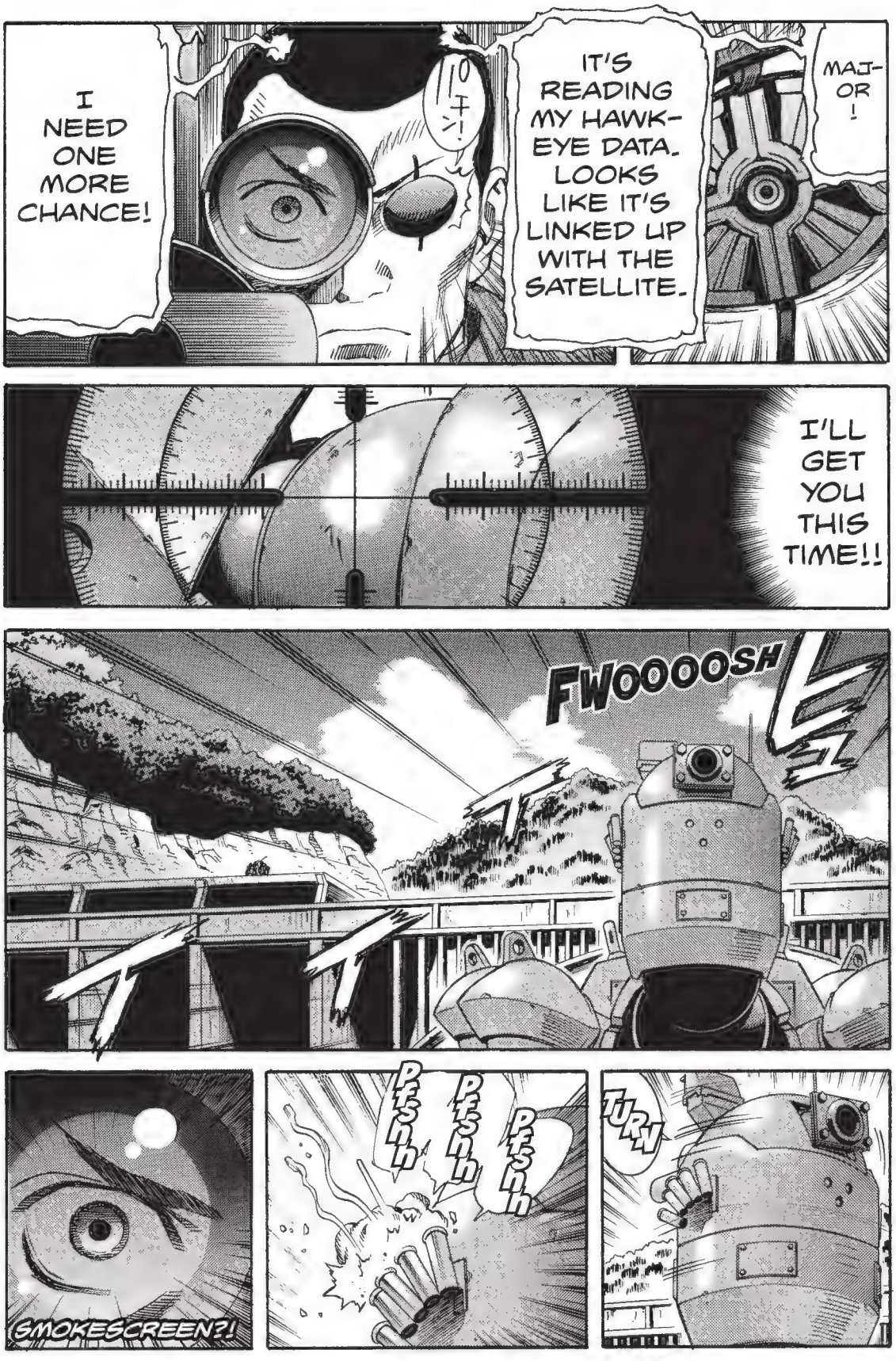

VRRRR
SKREEEE
VRRRRR
SPIN
SPIN
ZOOOOM
SKREEEE
THE JOINTS !!
CHING
BA-POOOOOM

ROOOAR
SKREEEEE
KLUNK
BOOOM
POP
SPIN
VROOOOOM
VOOOOM
UG-GH!
IT DOD-GED?!
SKREEEECH


VRRRR
SHOOT !!
BOOOM
THUNK
SKREEE
DAMN IT!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BA-
POOOWW
SKREEE
FSSSSHHH

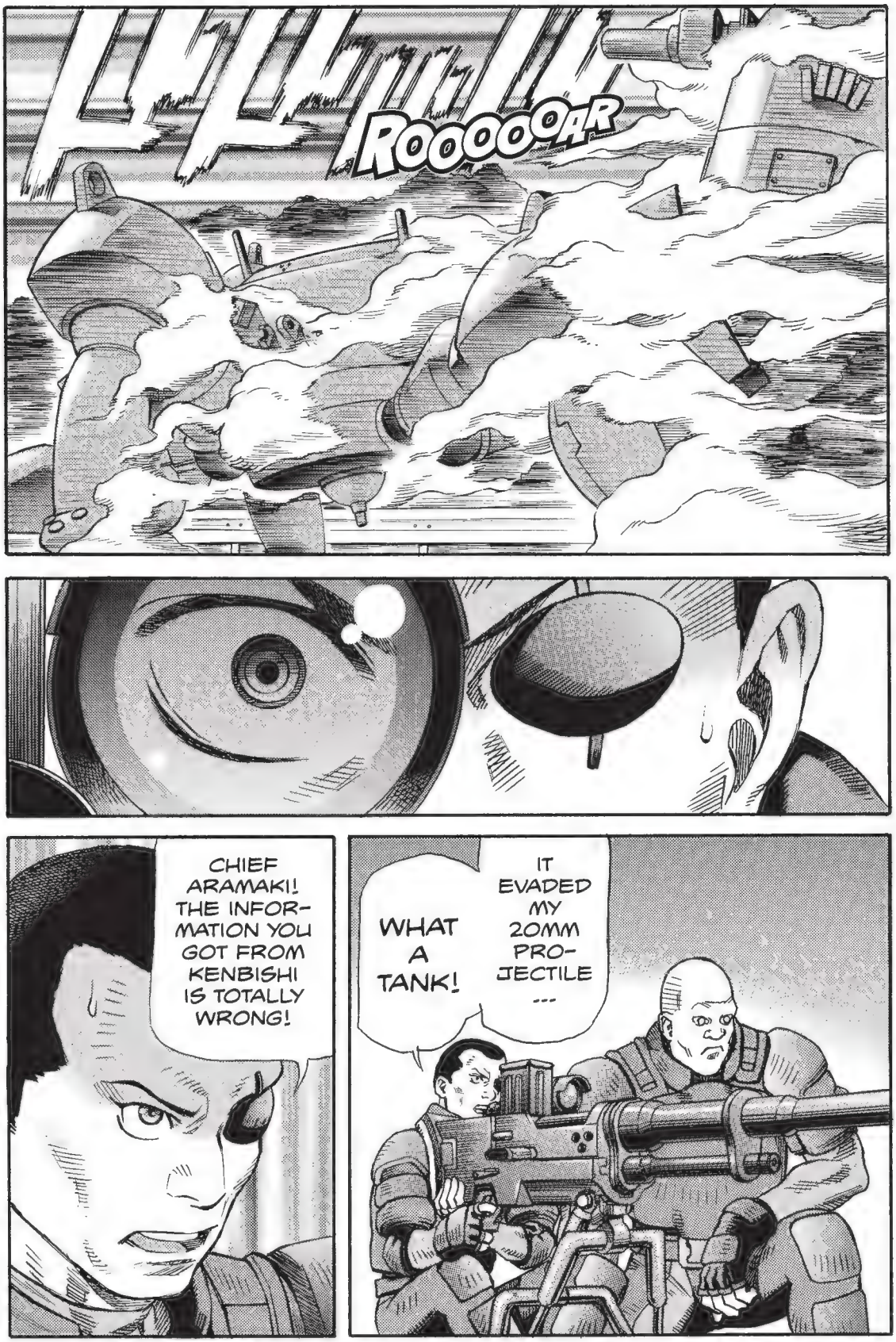
SKREEE
!
SPREAD OUT!!
PSSHH


THUMP
SKREEE
SKREEE
SPIIINN
KLANG
SKREEEE
SAITŌ
!!


I NEED ONE MORE CHANCE!
ピピピ!
IT'S READING MY HAWK-EYE DATA. LOOKS LIKE IT'S LINKED UP WITH THE SATELLITE.
MAJ-OR!
I'LL GET YOU THIS TIME!!
FWOOOOSH
SMOKESCREEN?!
PFSHH
PFSHH
PFSHH
TURN

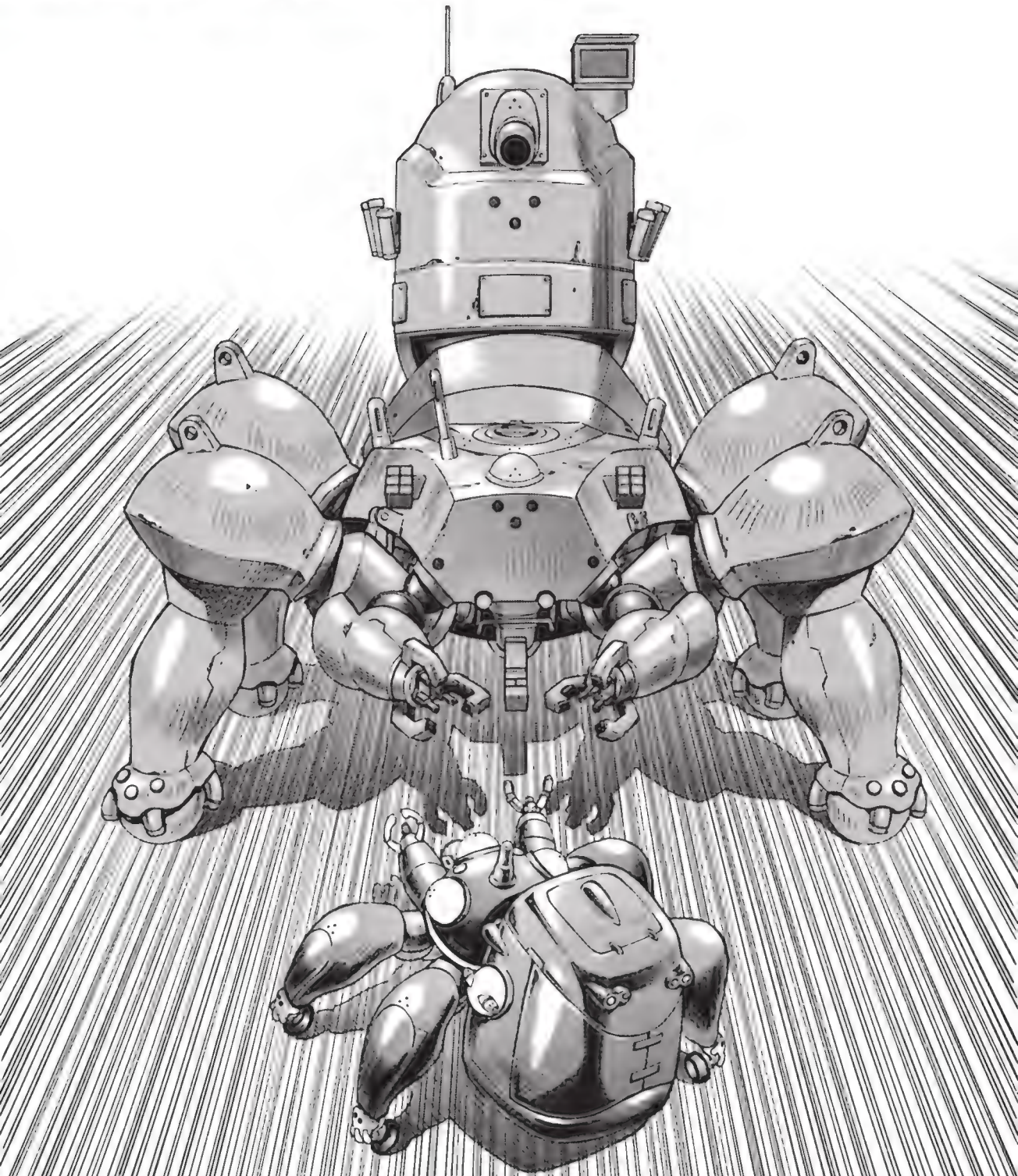
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
RUUUMMMBLLE
GRIP
CLENCH
POP

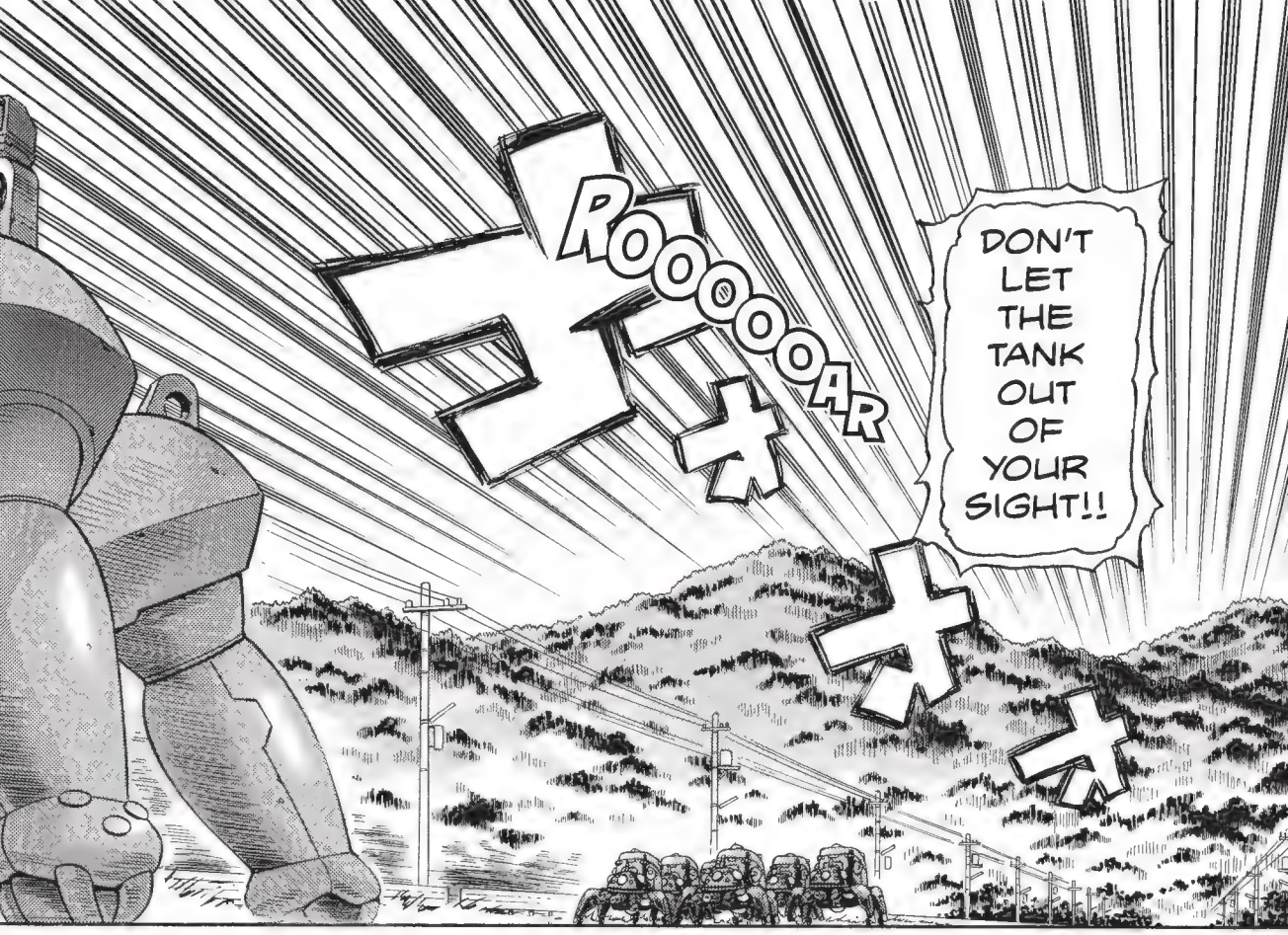
ROOOOOAR
BOOOM
CRAAACK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
spin
BOOM
BOOM

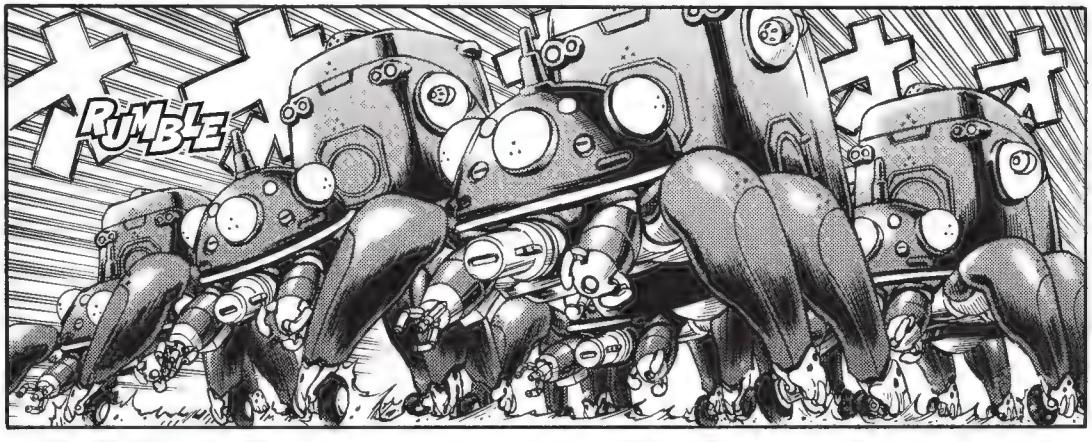

ROOOOOAR
CHIEF ARAMAKI! THE INFORMATION YOU GOT FROM KENBISHI IS TOTALLY WRONG!
WHAT A TANK!
IT EVADED MY 20MM PROJECTILE ...

...IT SEEMS YOU DIDN'T GIVE US ALL THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE.
UNFORTUNATELY ...
Kenbishi Industries HAW206 Data
IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION.
APPARENTLY ...
... YOU'RE GONNA REGRET IT!!
#012 End

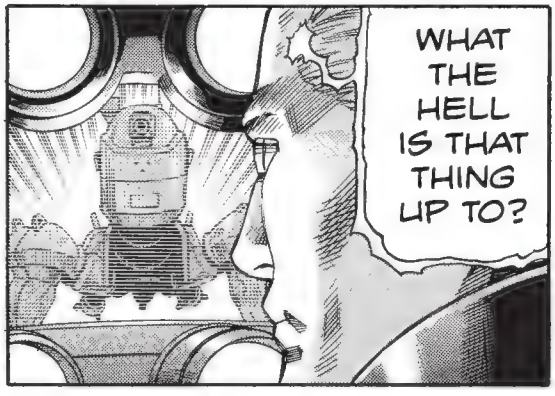
#014: Snipe Opportunity

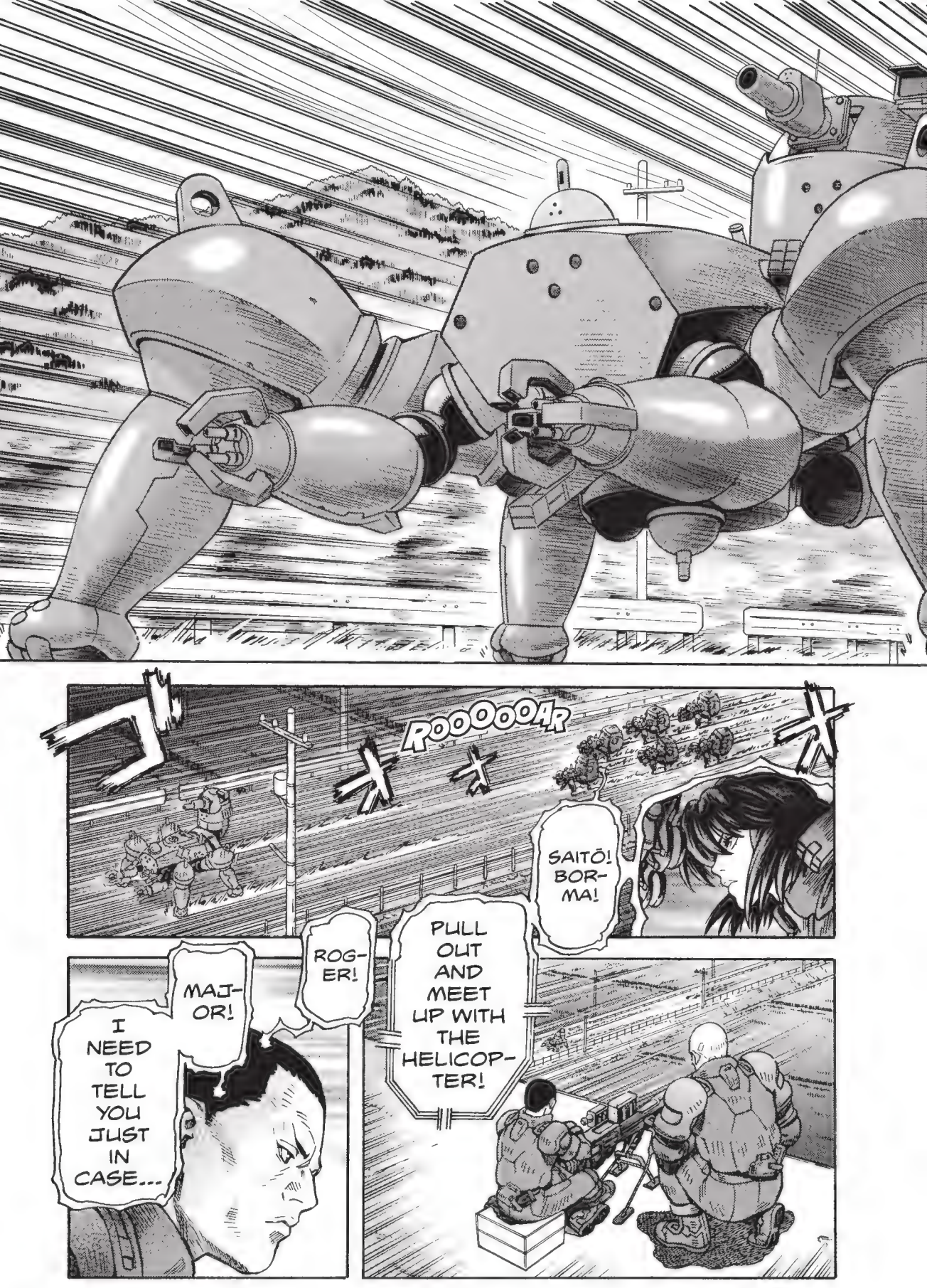



ROOOOOAR
DON'T LET THE TANK OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!!


RUMBLE

I DON'T KNOW... BUT WE NEED TO STOP IT.
WE HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK!


WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING UP TO?


ROOOOOAR
SAITŌ! BOR-MA!
PULL OUT AND MEET UP WITH THE HELICOP-TER!
ROG-ER!
MAJ-OR!
I NEED TO TELL YOU JUST IN CASE...

THE SPECS ON THE TANK THAT KENBISHI GAVE US...
... CAN'T BE TRUST-ED!
I FIGURED THAT, SINCE YOU MISSED THE SHOT.
RUUMMMBLE

THAT ASS-HOLE'S TRYING TO GET ON THE HIGHWAY!
RUMBLE
SKREEEE
HE'S IN A HURRY TO GET SOME-WHERE.
ROOOOOAR

CRAAAASH
CRAAAASH
THUD
BOOOM

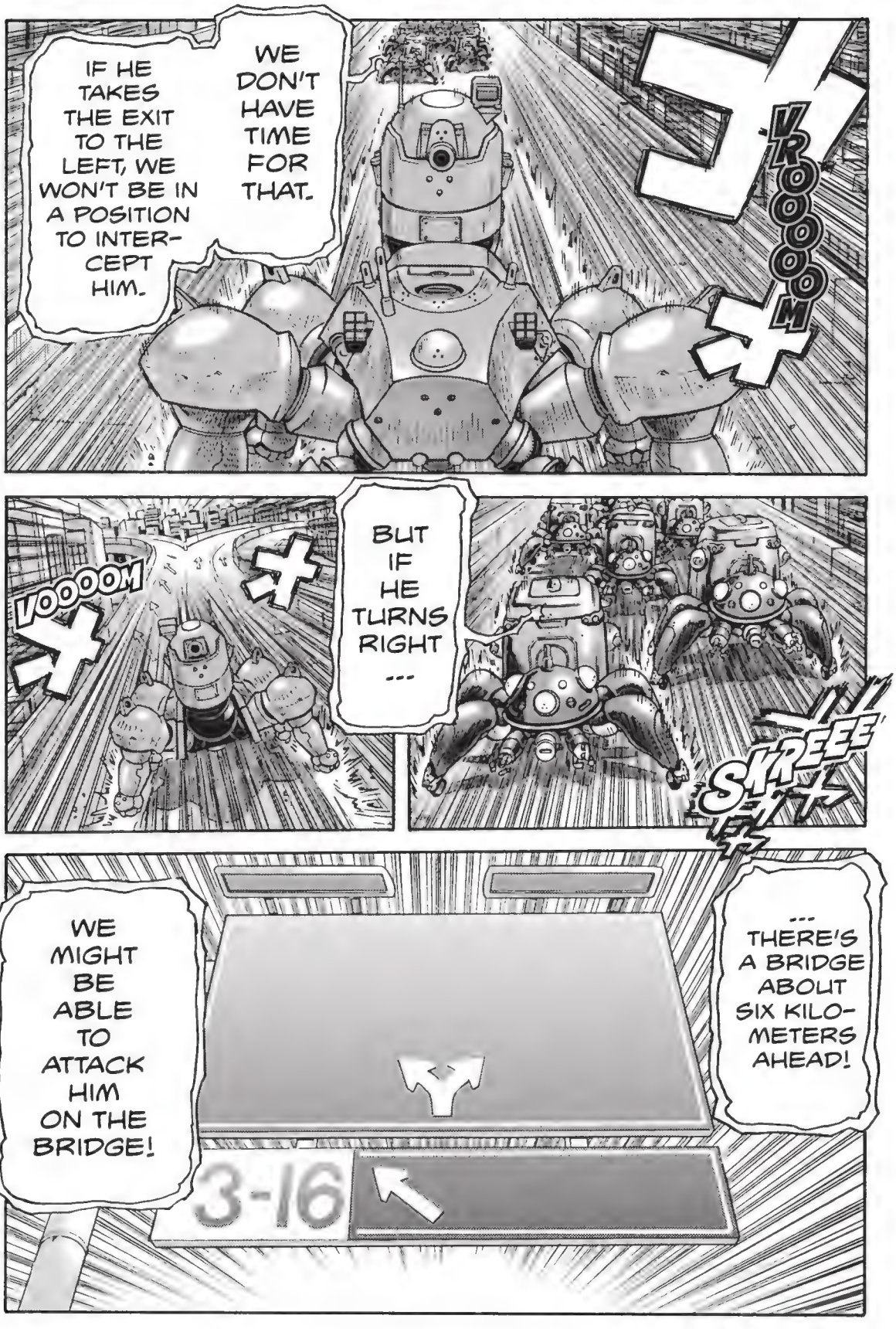
CRASH
SPIN
THUD
THUD
THUD
CRASH
BOOM
SPIIIIN
BAAANG

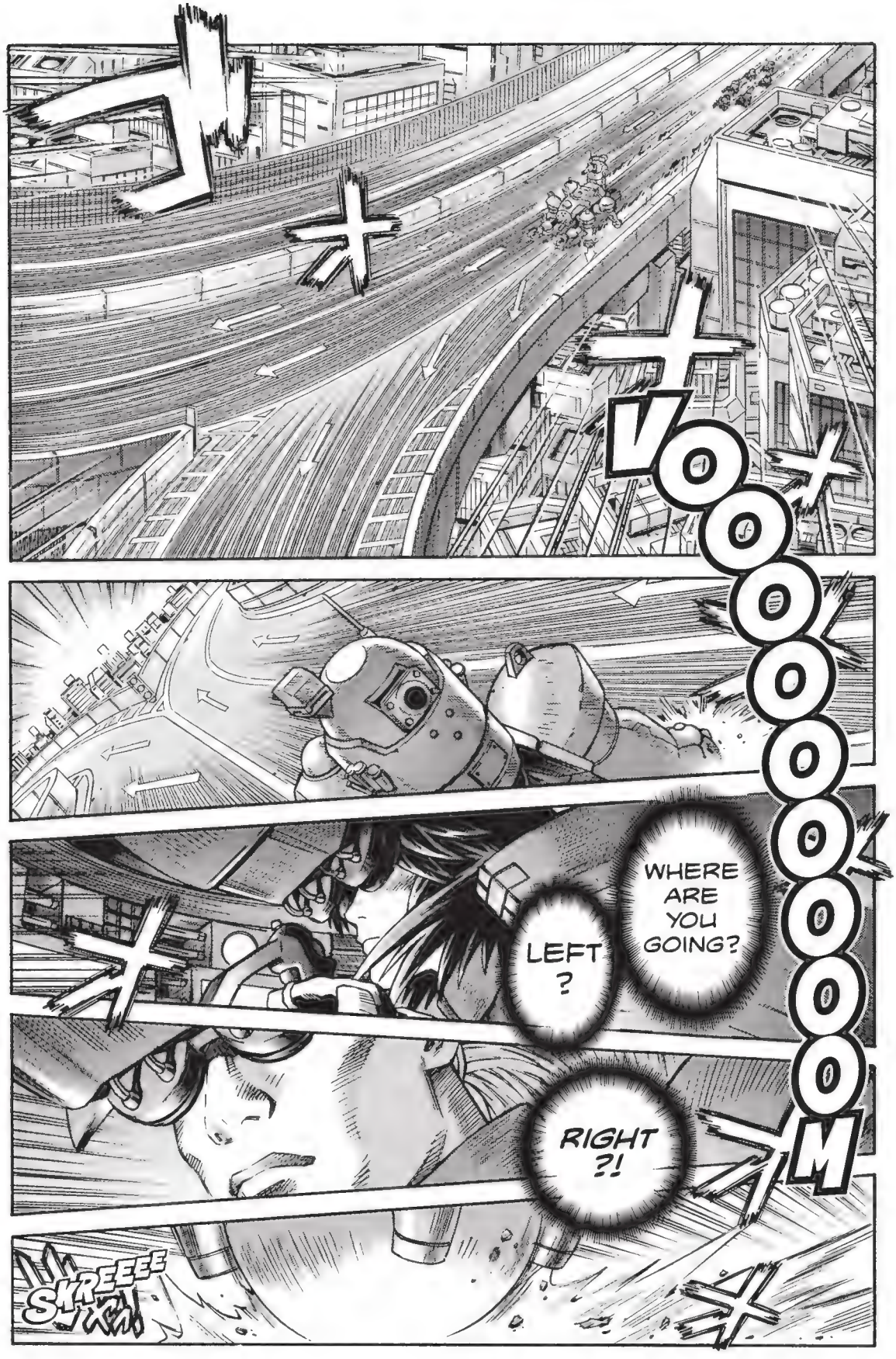
ROOOOOAR
NOW WE NEED TO SEE WHAT EXIT HE TAKES ONCE HE GETS ON THE HIGHWAY!
ROOOOOAR
WHY AREN'T WE MOVING, DADDY?
HOOOOOONK
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY CAN'T WE GET ON THE HIGHWAY?
IS THE ROAD CLOSED? WHAT HAP-PENED?
HOOOOOONK

HUH ?
CRAP, I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR MY DELIV-ERY!
ZOOOOM
WHAT THE --?!
SKREEE
---?!
HOOOOONK
W-WAS THAT A TANK ?!

VOOOOOOM
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
AI HELI-COPTER'S WITH-DRAWING.
LIVE

THE NEWS WILL LEAK SOON. I BET THEY DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN.
chakk
chakk
chakk
NEWS HELI-COP-TERS.
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
NO TERROR-ISTS HAVE CLAIMED RESPON-SIBILITY ---
IF KENBISHI DOESN'T ADMIT IT'S THEIR FAULT ---
---THE SDF WILL PLAY INNO-CENT.
SO THAT LEAVES US TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
NOW WE HAVE TO SEE HOW MUCH INFO THE CHIEF CAN GET OUT OF KENBISHI.

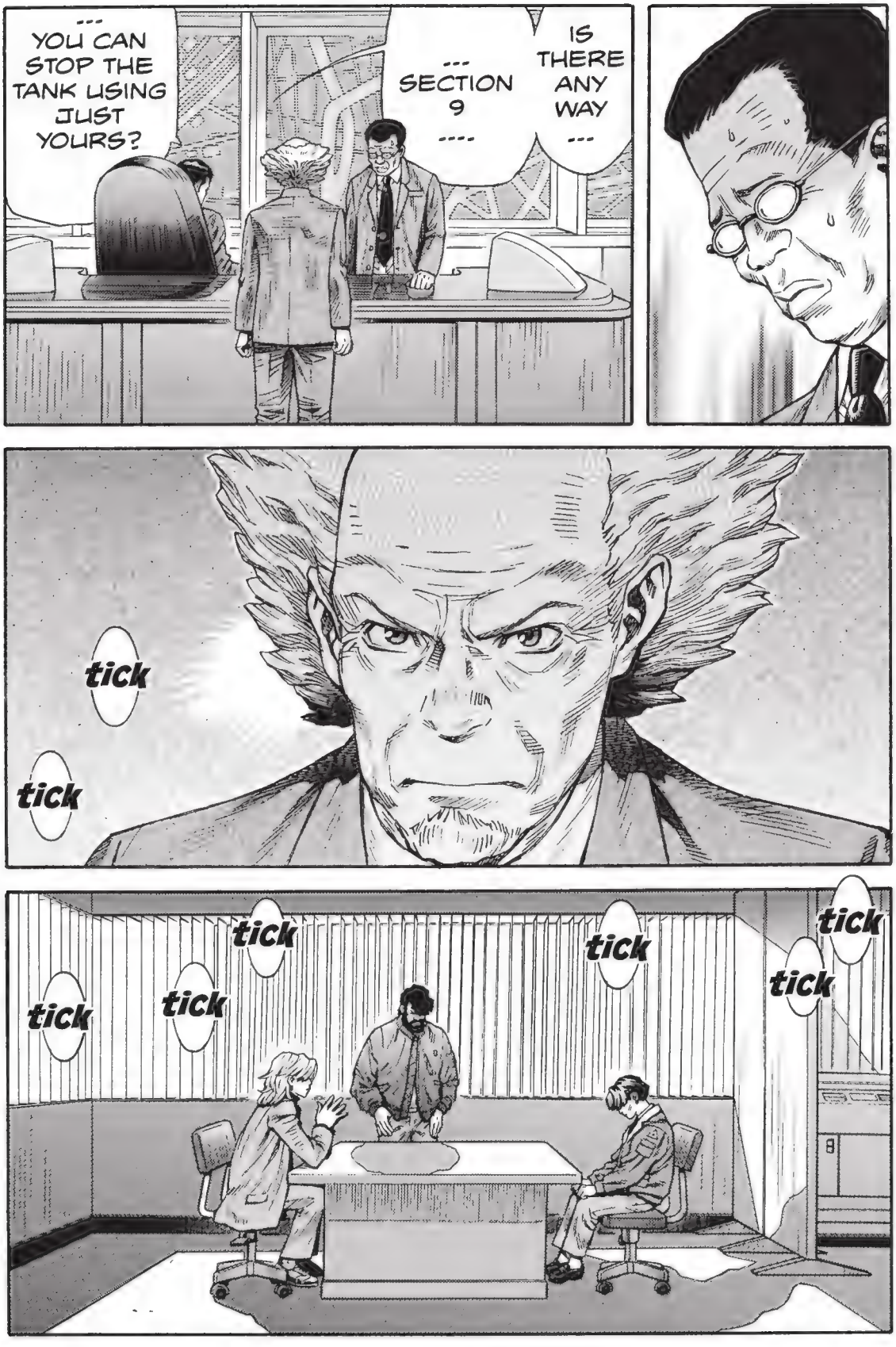

IF HE TAKES THE EXIT TO THE LEFT, WE WON'T BE IN A POSITION TO INTER-CEPT HIM.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT.
VROOOOM
VOOOOM
BUT IF HE TURNS RIGHT ...
SKREEE
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTACK HIM ON THE BRIDGE!
... THERE'S A BRIDGE ABOUT SIX KILO-METERS AHEAD!
3-16

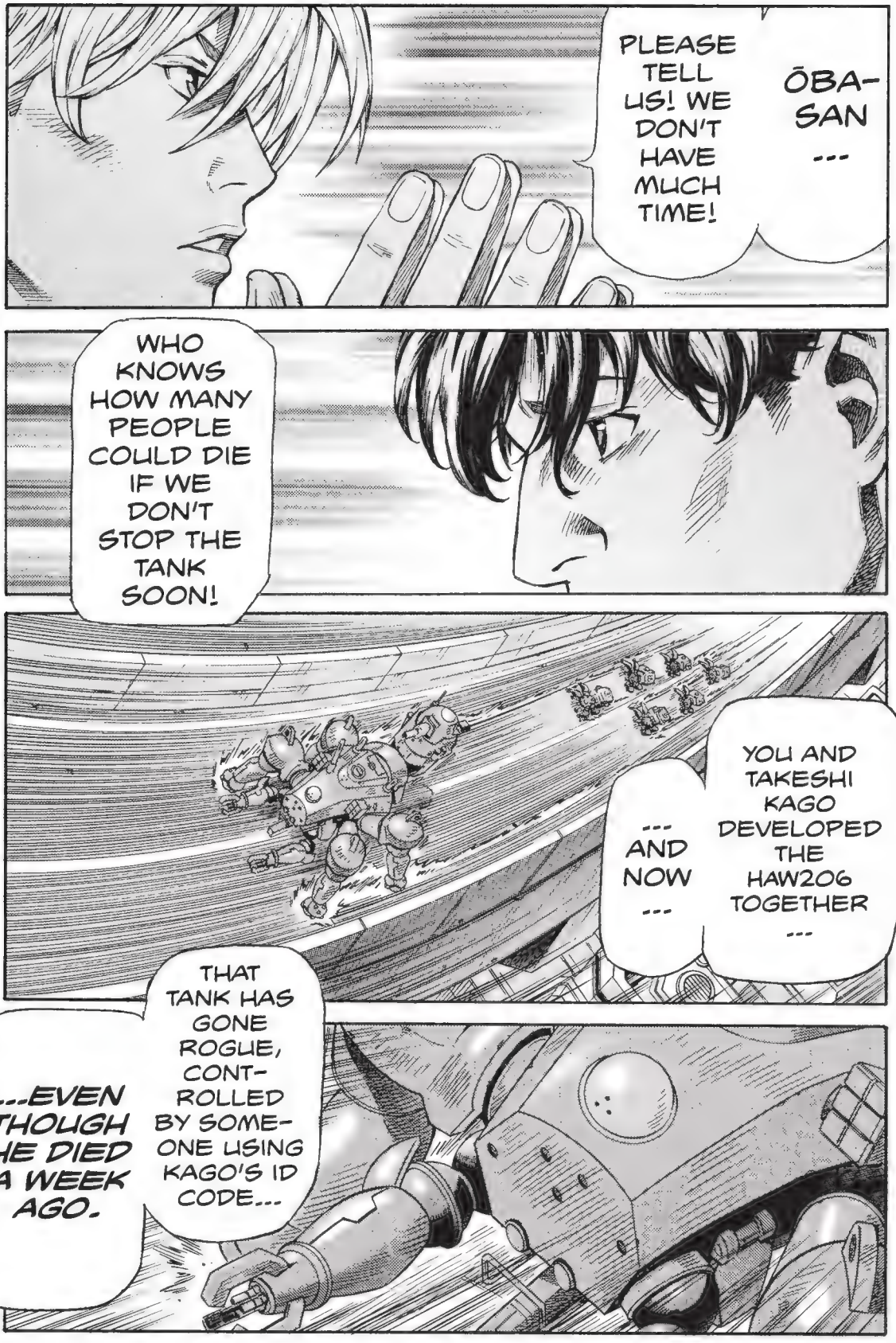

VOOOOOOOOOM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
LEFT ?
RIGHT ?!
SKREEEE

VOOOOOM
YES! RIGHT!
WE NEED THOSE SPECS, CHIEF!
SKREEEE
THE SDF'S RE-SPONSE IS OBVI-OUS.
beep
beep

WILL YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN US?
BUT WHAT ABOUT KEN-BISHI?
WE SPENT ---
---SIX LONG YEARS DEVEL-OPING THAT TANK!!
YOU REALLY THINK THE POLICE CAN COMPEN-SATE US ---
--- FOR THE LOSSES WE'LL SUFFER FOR DIS-CLOSING THE SPECS ?!
THUD
THAT'S IF ANYONE EVEN WANTS TO BUY IT.
BUT RIGHT NOW ---
THAT TANK HAS KENBISHI INDUS-TRIES' NAME ON IT.
I CAN'T THINK OF A WORSE PRODUCT DEMON-STRATION THAN THIS.

PLE-ASE ---


...
YOU CAN STOP THE TANK USING JUST YOURS?
...
SECTION 9
....
IS THERE ANY WAY
...
tick
tick
tick
tick
tick
tick
tick


ŌBA-SAN ---
PLEASE TELL US! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE COULD DIE IF WE DON'T STOP THE TANK SOON!
YOU AND TAKESHI KAGO DEVELOPED THE HAW206 TOGETHER ---
--- AND NOW ---
THAT TANK HAS GONE ROGUE, CONT-ROLLED BY SOME-ONE USING KAGO'S ID CODE...
...EVEN THOUGH HE DIED A WEEK AGO.

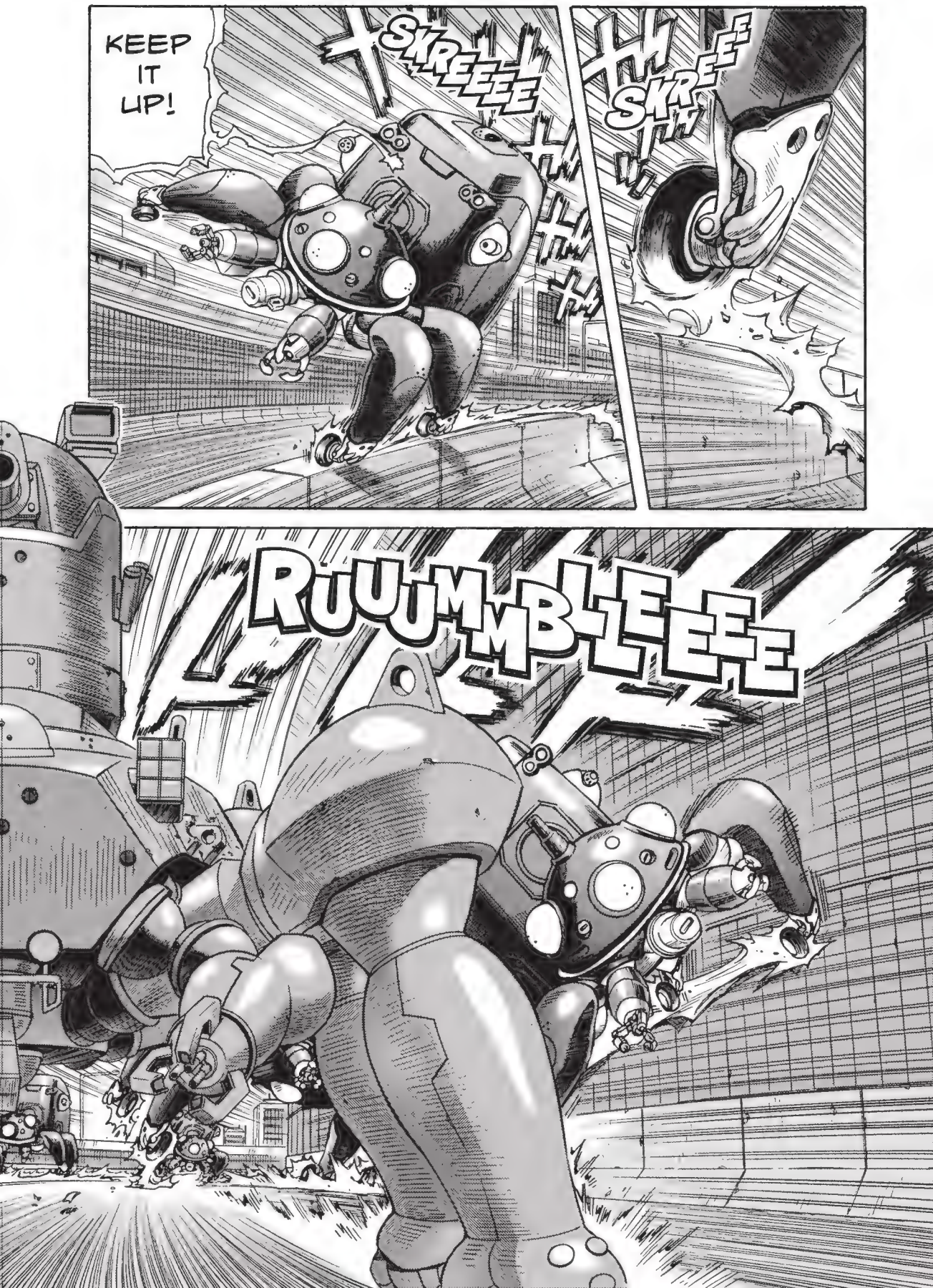
LISTEN, ŌBA-SAN ---
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH THIS INCIDENT SOMEHOW.
WE KNOW THAT.
WE'RE NOT TREATING YOU AS A SUS-PECT...
WE JUST WANT YOU TO TALK.
WHERE IS THE TANK GOING ?
AND WHAT IS IT GOING TO DO ?!

YEAH ?
TOGUSA ---

TRY ASK-ING HIM LIKE THIS ---
LET'S SWITCH TACTICS.
GOT IT.

WHY DID TAKESHI KAGO-SAN ---
OKAY, ŌBA-SAN ---
--- REFUSE CYBER-IZATION BEFORE HIS DEATH?

ROOOOAR
ROOOAR
THAT BRIDGE IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO GET HIM!
WE NEED TO FORCE THE TANK TO GO RIGHT!
SUR-ROUND HIM!
THE NEXT EXIT'S THE LAST ONE! LEFT IS THE CITY! RIGHT IS THE BRIDGE!
BA-TŌ!


KEEP IT UP!
SKREEEE
SKREE
RUUUMMBLEEE

SKREEEEEE
RUUMBLEEE

ROOOOOAR
EVEN IF HE CAN'T SEE US ...
WE'LL MAKE OUR PRES-ENCE FELT!!
ROOOOOAR
SKREEEE

SKREEE
GET IN FRONT OF HIM!!
ROOOOOOAR
skritch
SKREEEE
POP
PSSSHA

GRIP
BA-POOOOOW
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP

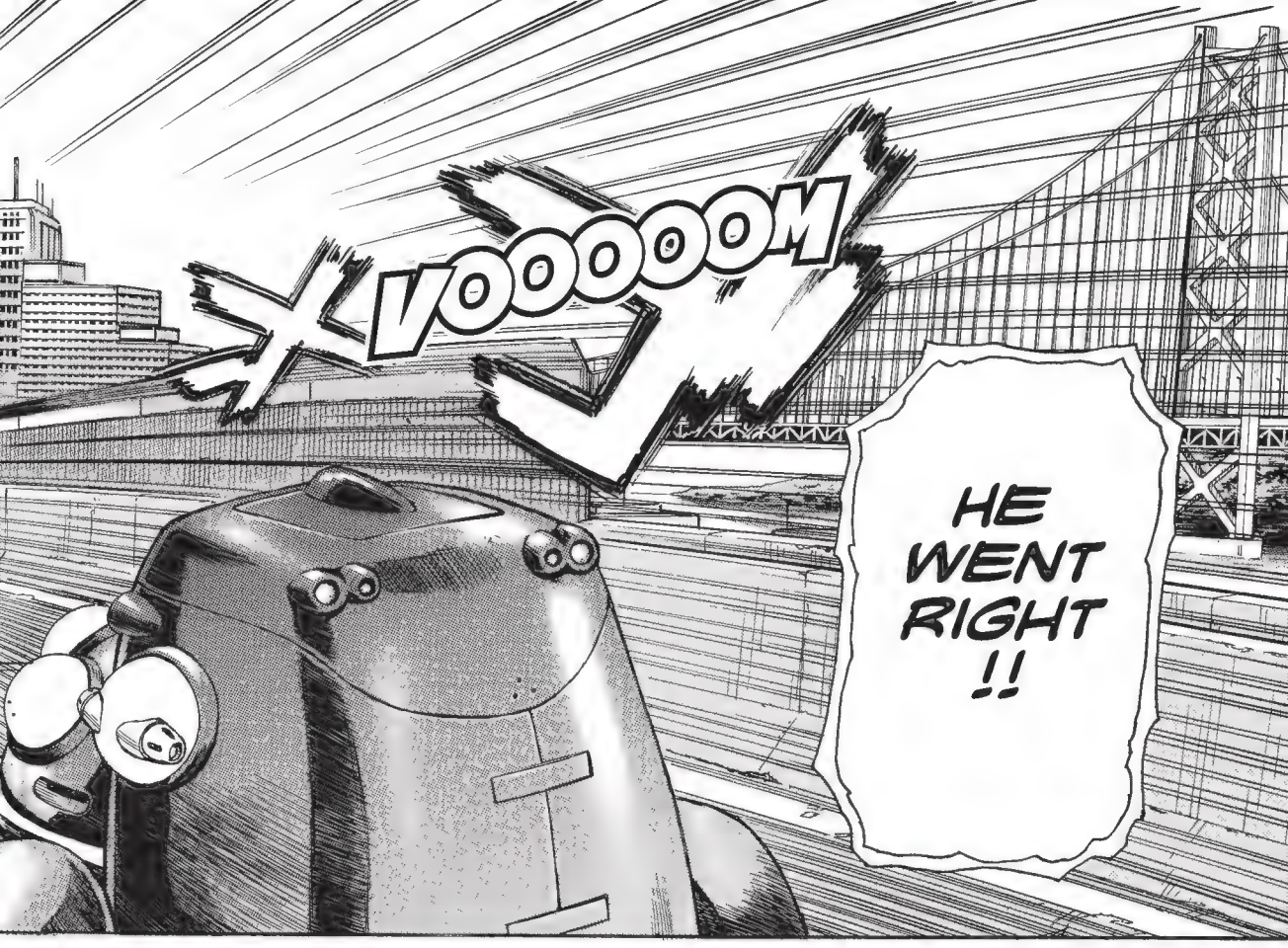
Spin
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
CHING
PSSSHAA
DAMN IT !!
JUMP !!
BA-POOOOW!!

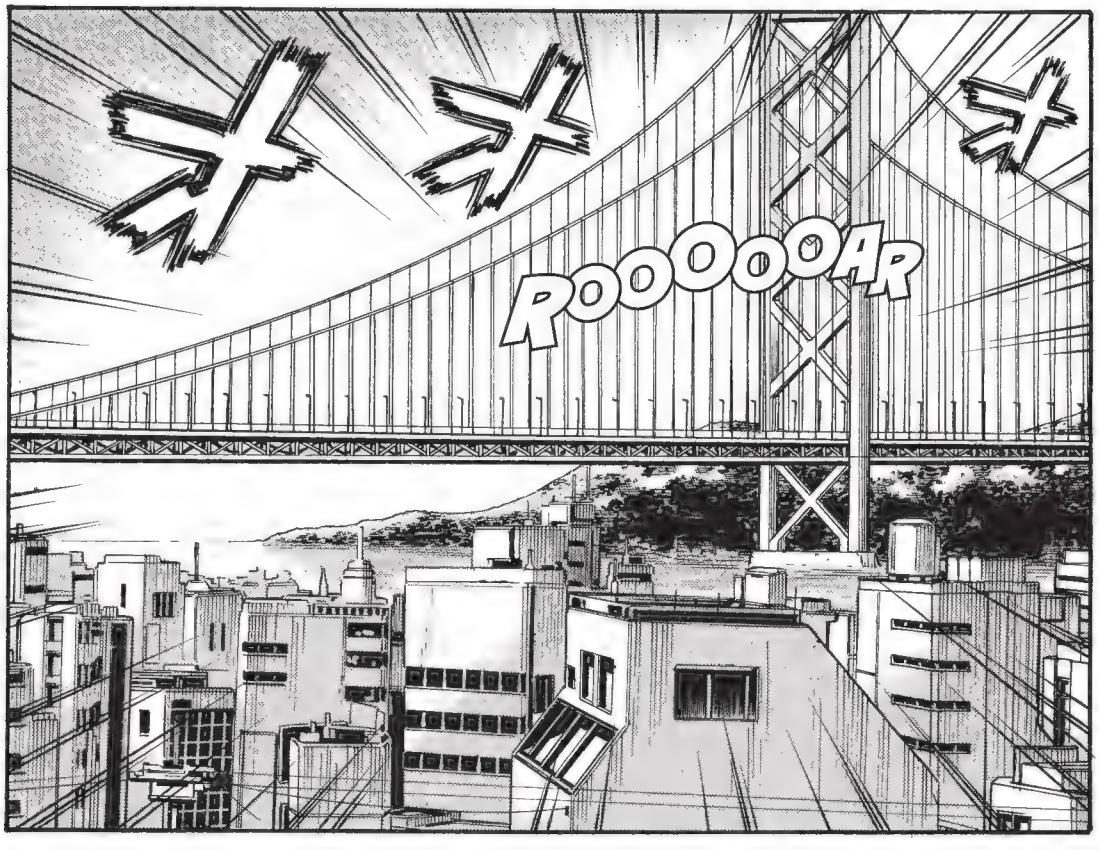
BOOOM
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
SKREEE
TACHI-
KOMA
!!

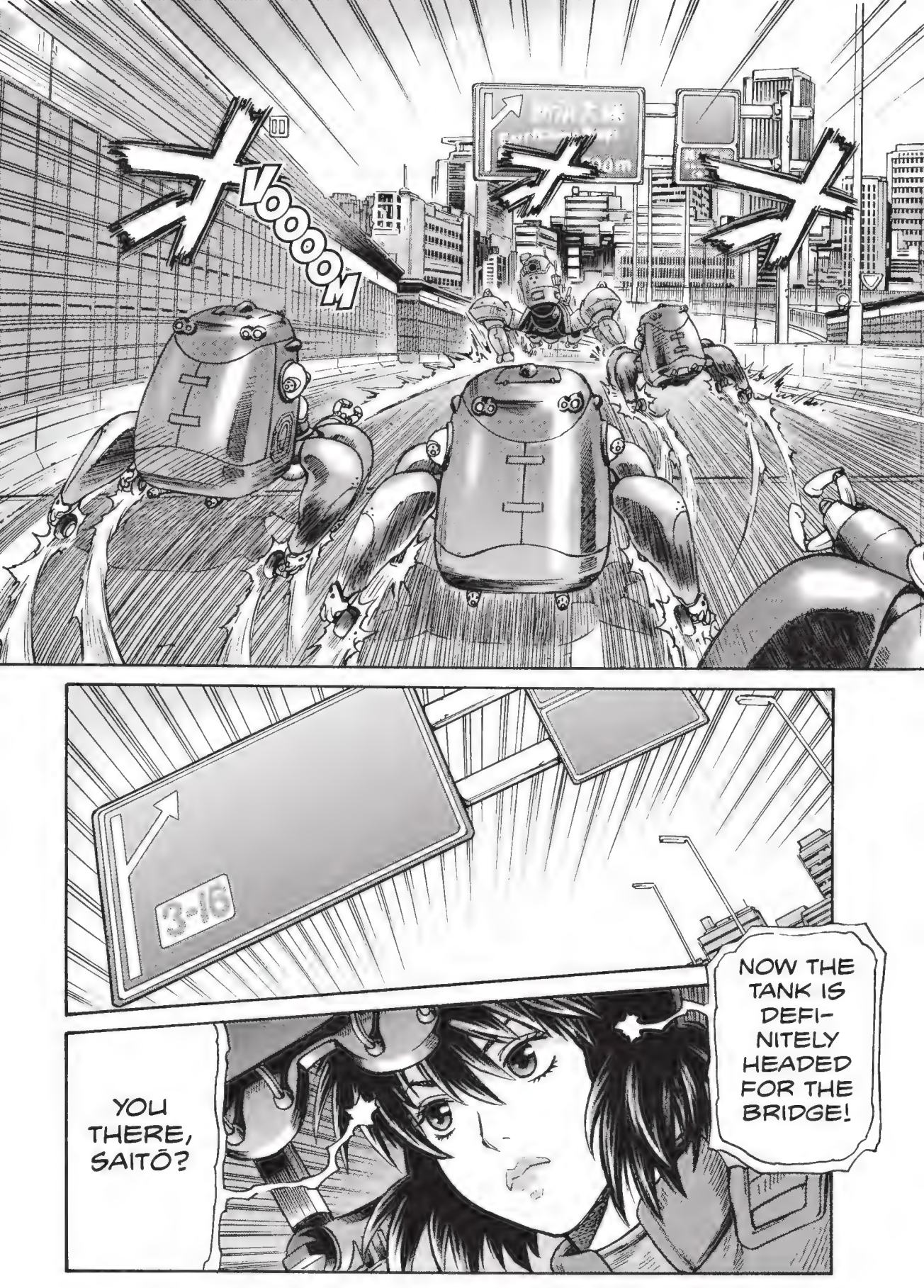
RATATATATATATAT
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
PSSSHA
FWOOOOOSH
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE

ROOOOOOAR
THUD
THUD
ROOOOOOAR
CHING

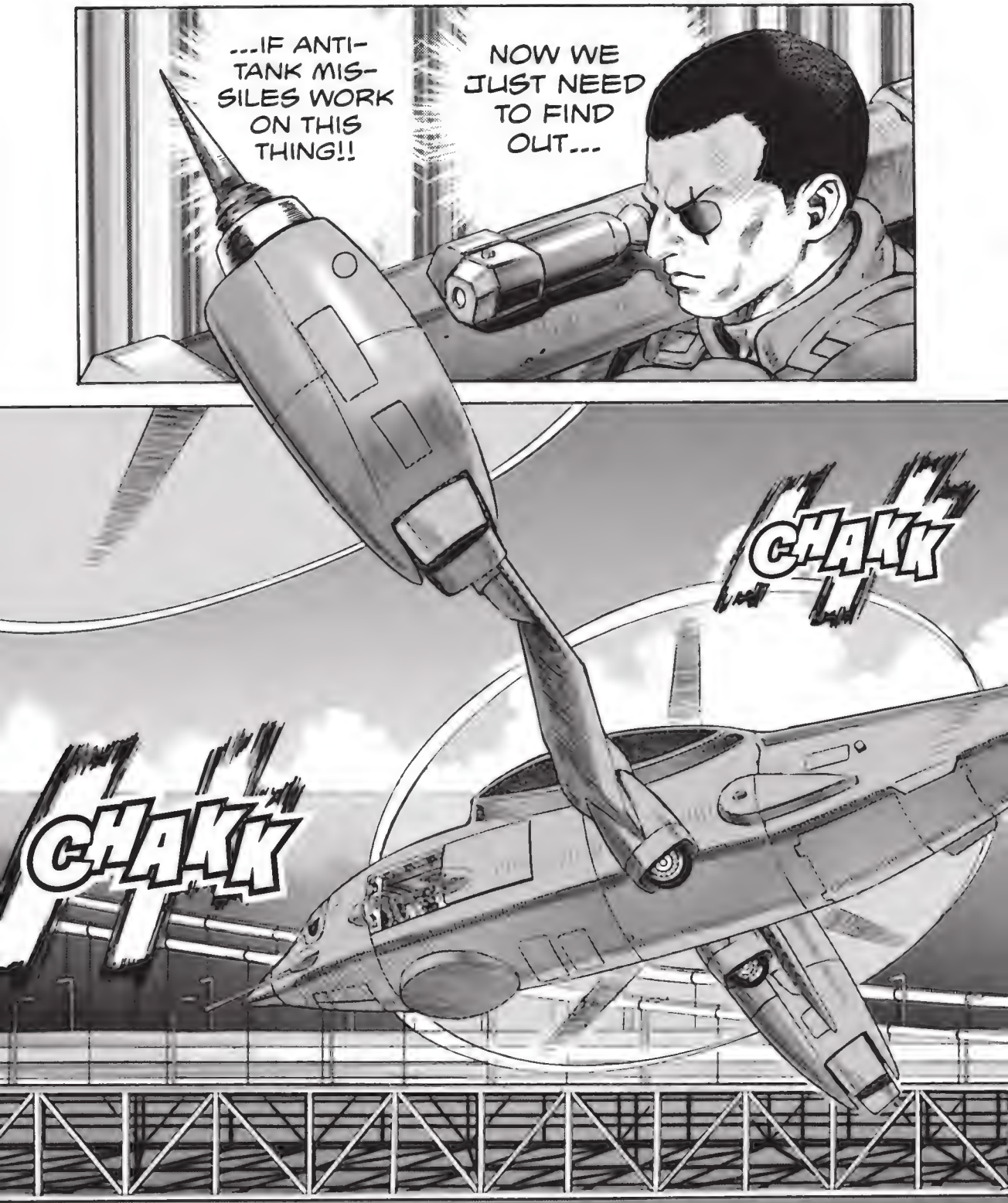
SKREEEE
YOU OKAY ?!
B-B-B-BOOM
WAIT THERE FOR ASSIS-TANCE!
YES MA'A-AA-AM.
LUCKY! HE BROKE DOWN!
HE MIGHT GET A STRUC-TURAL ANALYSIS!


VOOOOOM
HE WENT RIGHT !!


ROOOOOAR


VOOOOM
3-16
NOW THE TANK IS DEFI-NITELY HEADED FOR THE BRIDGE!
YOU THERE, SAITŌ?

CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
THIS IS SAITŌ! READY TO SNIPE THE TARGET WHEN IT GETS IN POSITION!
CHAKK
CHAKK

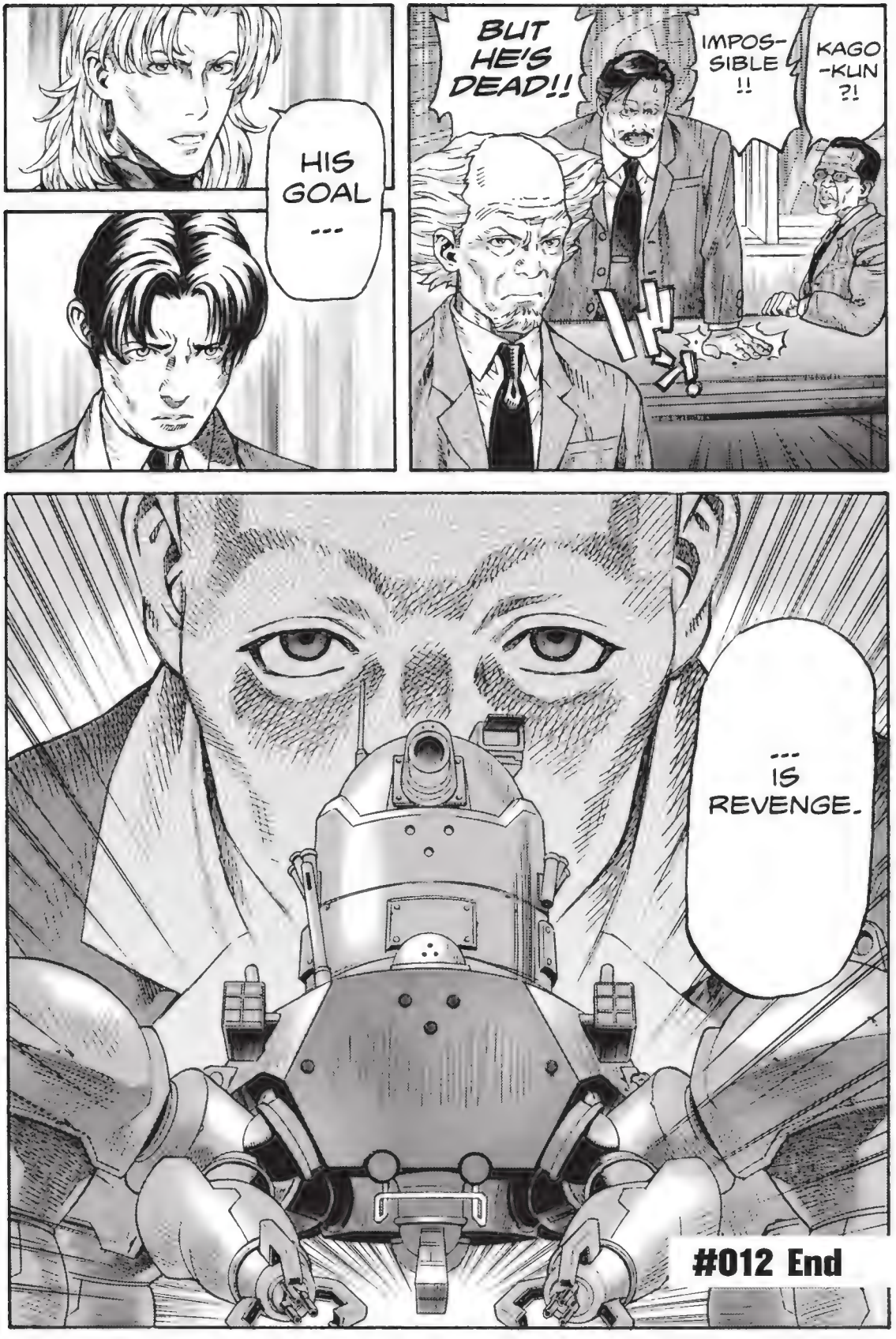

...IF ANTI-TANK MIS-SILES WORK ON THIS THING!!
NOW WE JUST NEED TO FIND OUT...
CHAKK
CHAKK

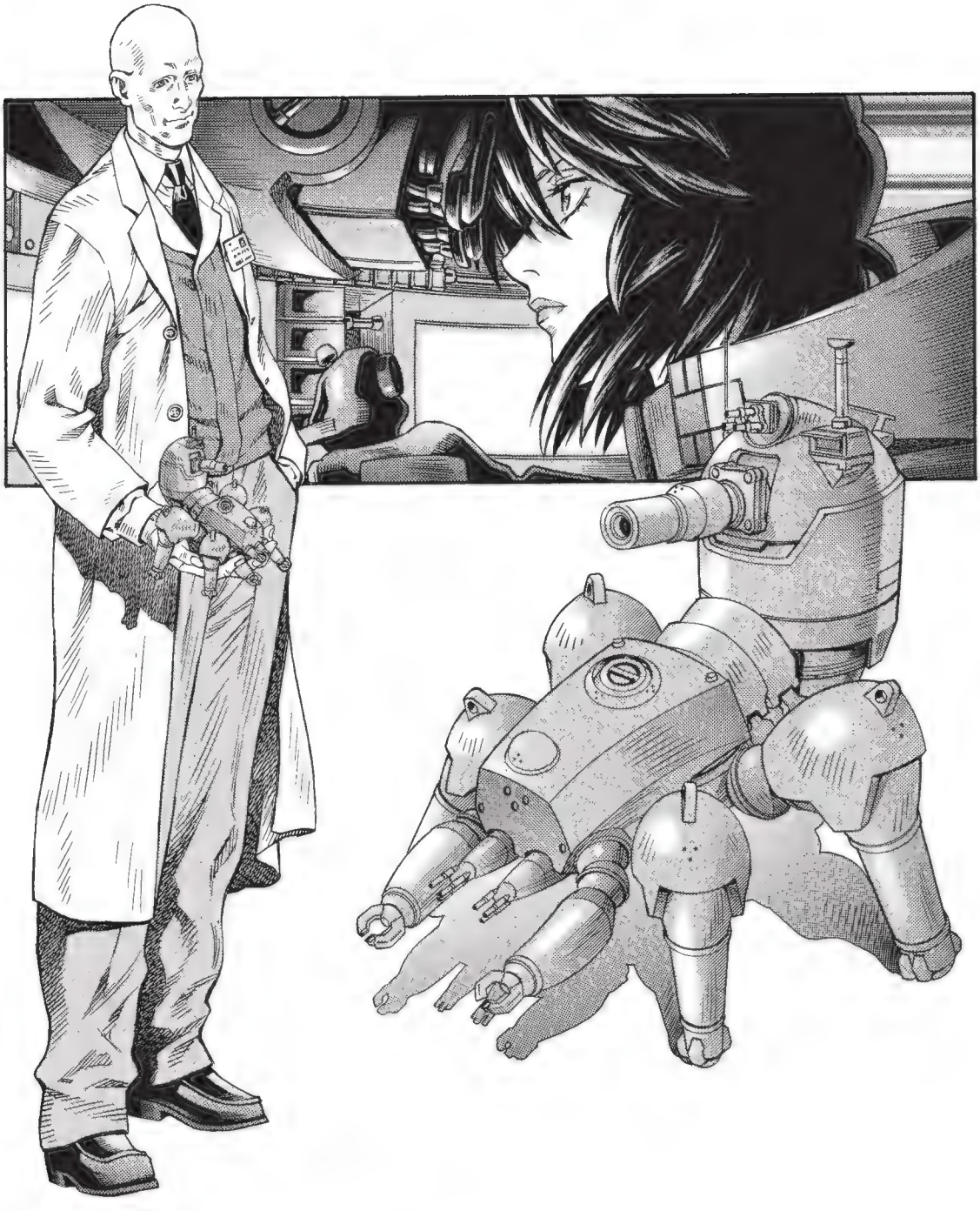
VOOOOOM
CHIEF!
THE TANK IS HEADED TOWARD THE BRIDGE!
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE TO USE THE ANTI-TANK MISSILES!
ROOOOOAR
LO
beep
PLEASE ASK IF THEY'LL WORK AGAINST HIM!
ROOOOOAR

CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
IF WE FAIL ...
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
... DESTROYING THAT BRIDGE COULD COST 4 TIMES MORE THAN THE SPRING 8 INCIDENT!
beep
...
UGH-HH!!

M-MISSILES ---
WILL YOU TELL ME?
SO NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK?
B-BUT PRESI-DENT!!
creak
YOU! SHUT UP!!
CLATTER!
WE KNOW WHO'S INSIDE THE TANK!!
CHIEF!
SLAM
HO
TMP

THE ONE INSIDE THE TANK ...
WHO IS IT?
WHAT ?!
... TAKESHI KAGO.
... IS REALLY ...


HIS GOAL ...
BUT HE'S DEAD!!
IMPOS-SIBLE !!
KAGO-KUN ?!
... IS REVENGE.
#012 End



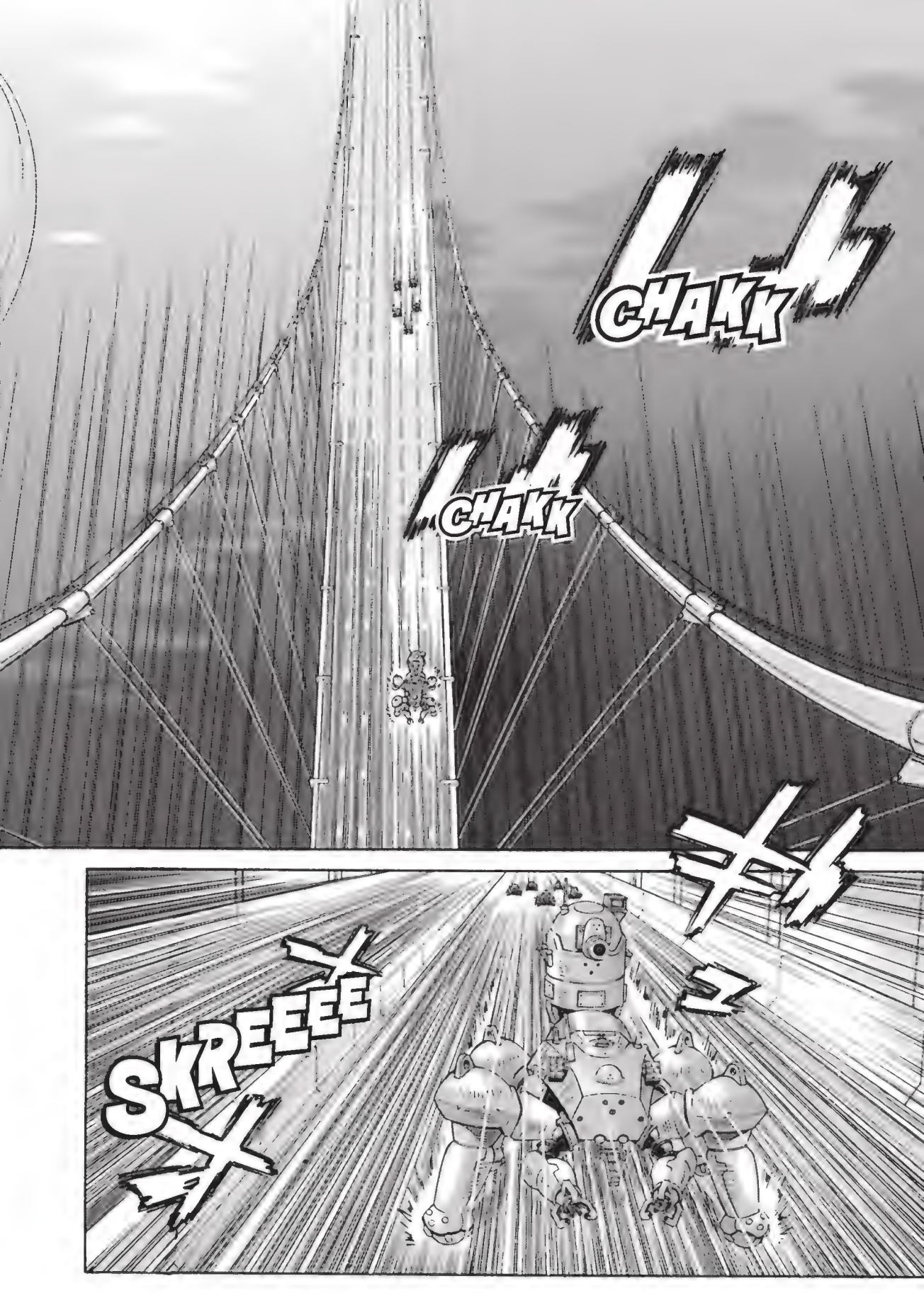
#015: Last Request

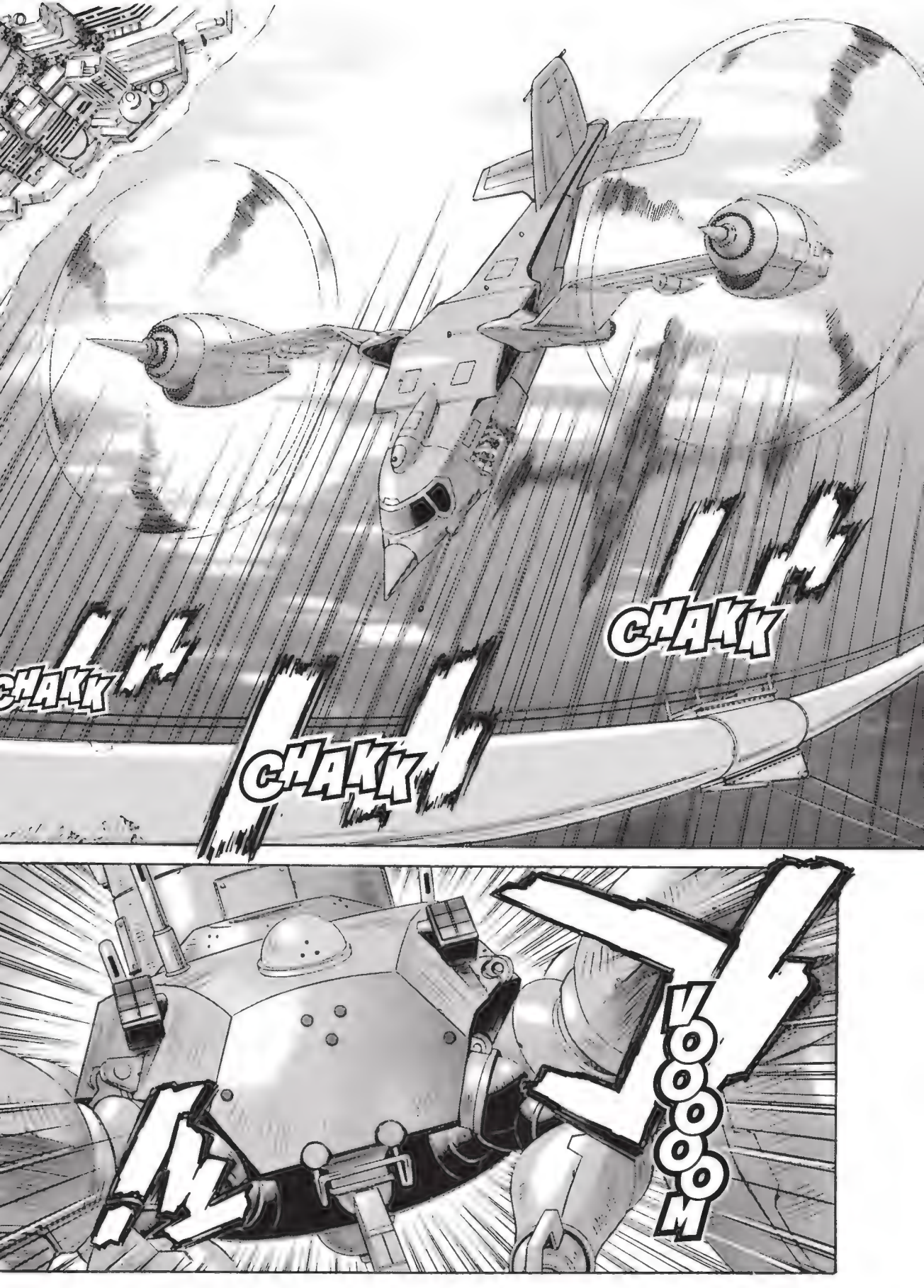
ROOOOOAR
VROOOOOM
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
WE'LL STOP THAT DAMN TANK WITH THESE MISSILES!

ROOOOOAR
SAITŌ'S IN POS-ITION TO SNIPE!
MA-JOR!
THE TANK'S ALMOST TO THE BRIDGE!
VOOOOM
ROOOAR
BUT WILL SAITŌ'S MIS-SILES EVEN WORK?
ROGER!

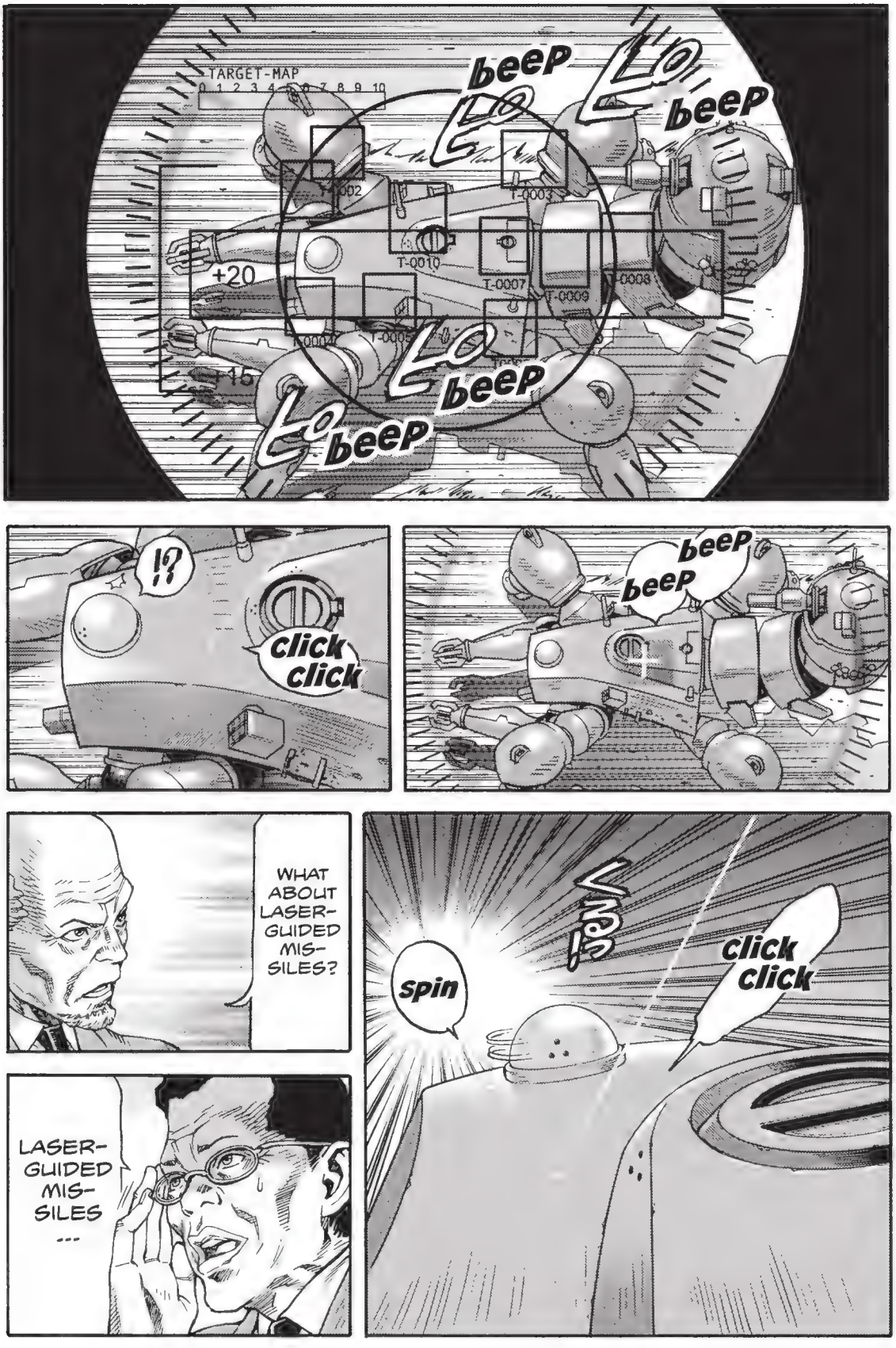
IMPOS-
SIBLE!!
BUT HE DIED A WEEK AGO!
HOW CAN HE BE INSIDE THE HAW206 ?
WHAT'S GOING ON, ŌBA-KUN ?!
beeP
GRIMACE

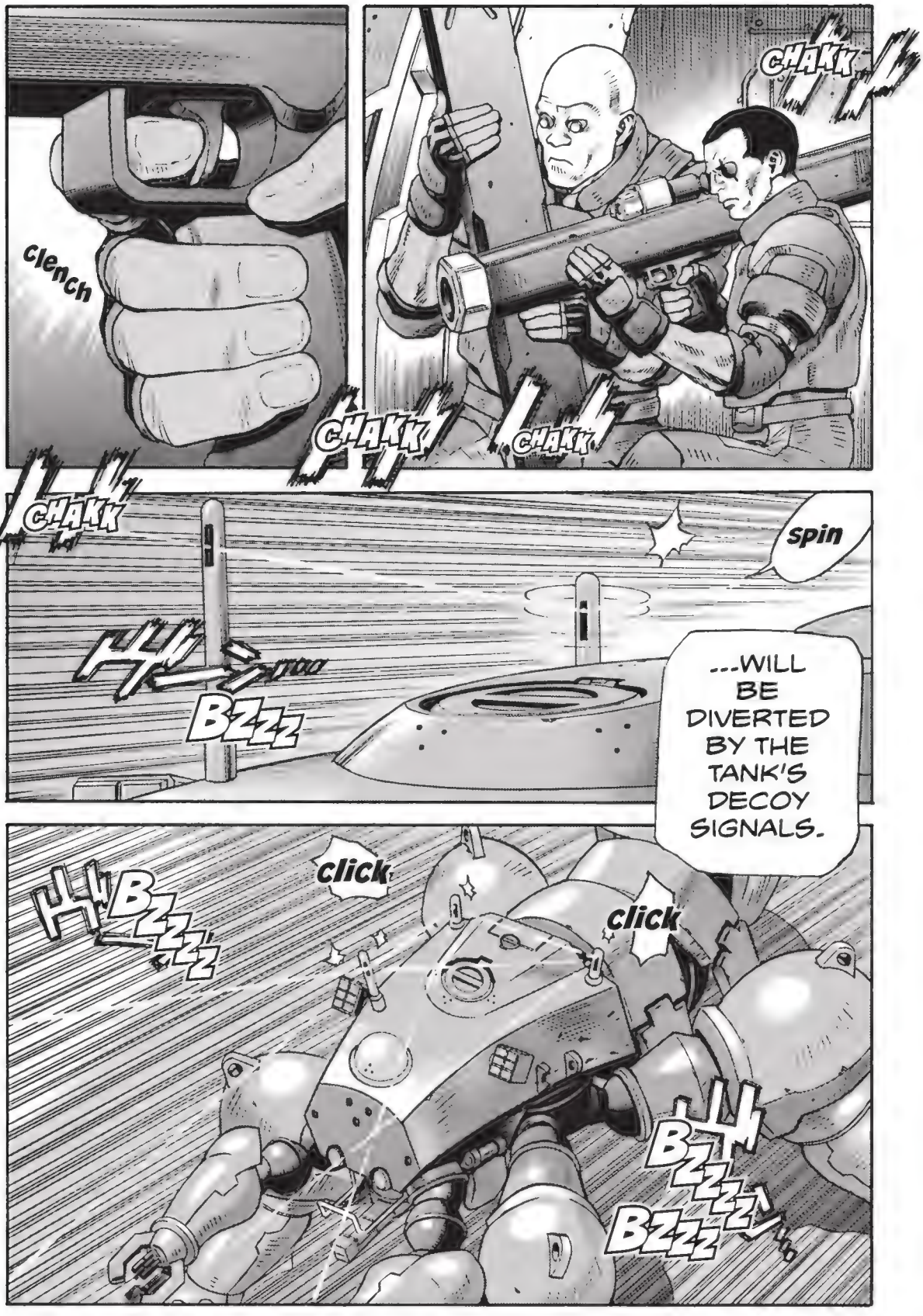
CHIEF !!
MA-JOR !
TELL US WHAT SAITŌ CAN USE AGAINST THE TANK! THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE!
HE'S PLANNING TO SHOOT WITH THE MISSILES HE HAS NOW!
...BUT WE NEED TO KNOW IF ANTI-TANK MISSILES WILL BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE HAW206!
SORRY TO CHANGE THE SUB-JECT...
RO-GER.
I BELIEVE THE HAW206 IS OPERATING IN MODE L.
HU-RRY UP!
--- !!
gla-nce

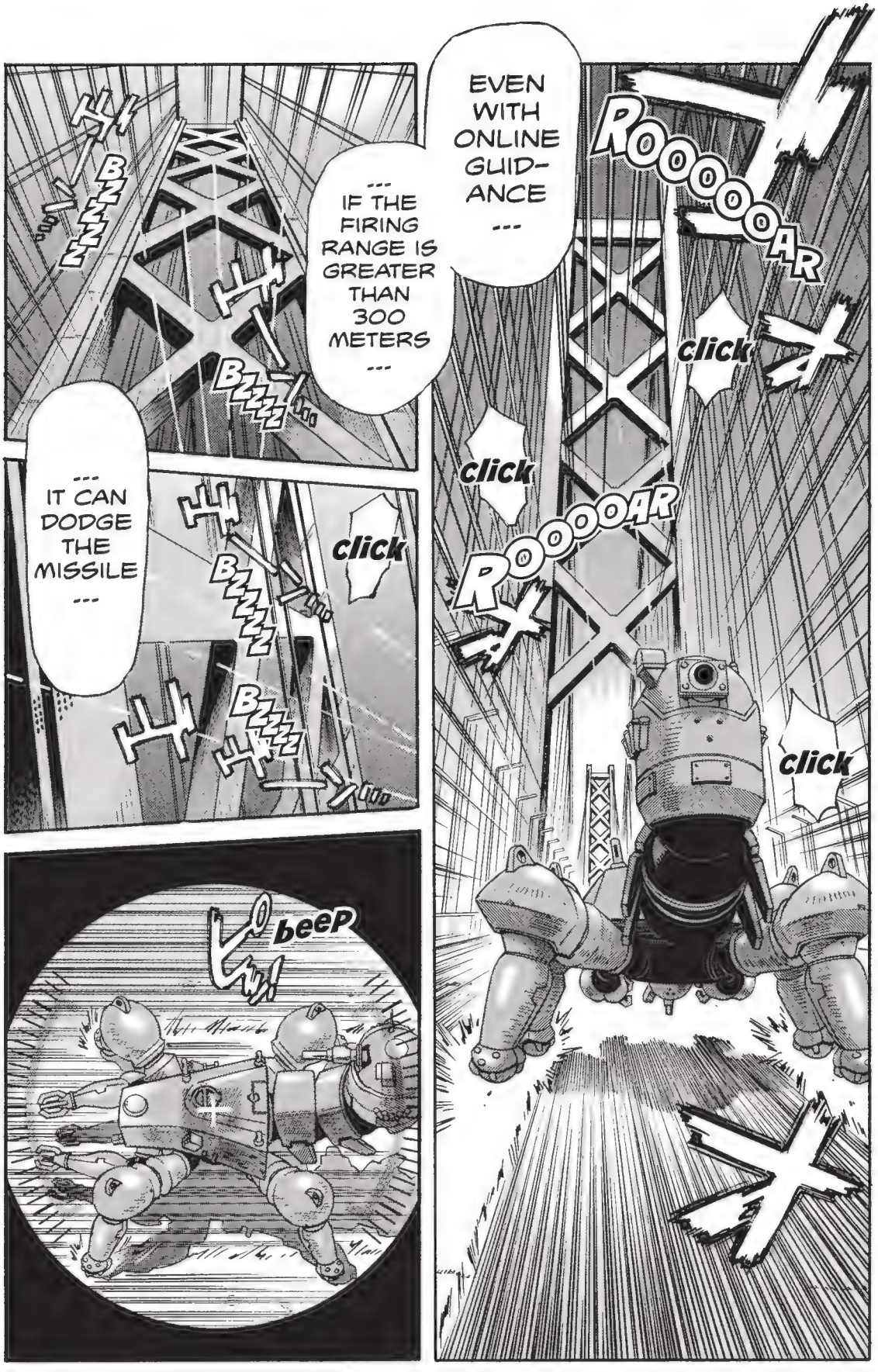

CHAKK
CHAKK
SKREEEE


CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
VOOOOOM

CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
IF IT'S OPERATING USING MODE L, MOST WIRELESS...
CHAKK
CHAKK
... GUIDED MISSILES WILL BE JAMMED.
click
SKREE


TARGET-MAP
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
T-0002
T-0003
T-0010
T-0007
T-0009
T-0008
T-0004
T-0005
+20
-15
beep
Lo
beep
Lo
beep
Lo
beep
Lo
beep
!?
click
click
beep
beep
WHAT ABOUT LASER-GUIDED MIS-SILES?
LASER-GUIDED MIS-SILES ...
spin
click
click

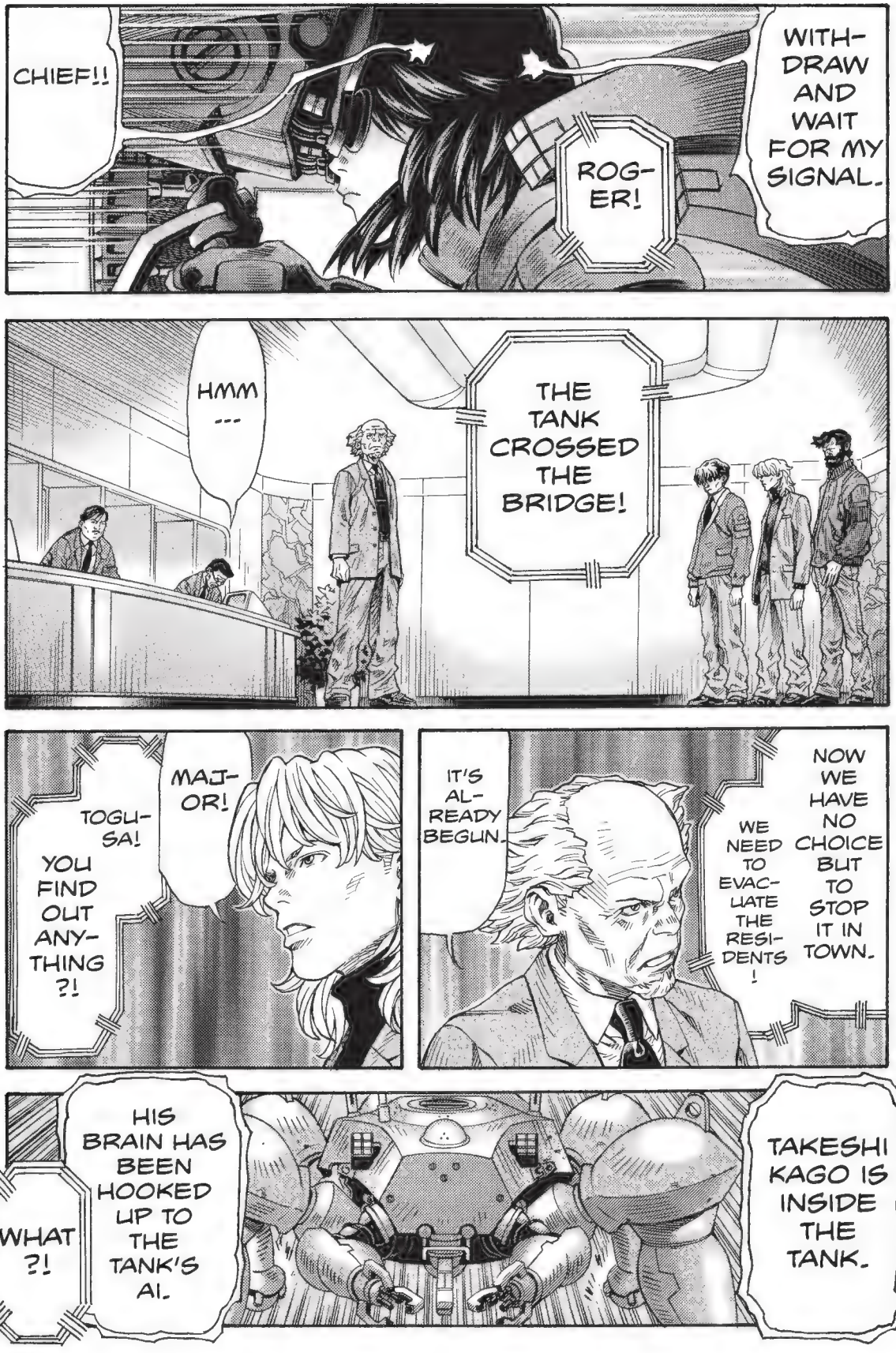

clench
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
spin
...WILL BE DIVERTED BY THE TANK'S DECOY SIGNALS.
BZZZ
click
click
BZZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ


EVEN WITH ONLINE GUID-ANCE ---
ROOOOOAR
click
click
ROOOOOAR
click
--- IF THE FIRING RANGE IS GREATER THAN 300 METERS ---
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
--- IT CAN DODGE THE MISSILE ---
click
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
beeP

clench
ROOOOOAR
--- AND SEND IT BACK TO ---
--- THE ONE WHO FIRED IT.
THAT'S WITH ---
clench
--- A 90% PLUS HACKING SUCCESS RATE.

DON'T LET SAITŌ FIRE THOSE MIS-SILES!
MAJ-OR!
WHAT DID YOU SAY ?!
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
SAITŌ!!

GLIDE
I-I CAN'T, MAJOR!
SIGH
SIGNAL'S JAMMED! CAN'T LOCK ON TARGET!
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
ROOOOOAR


CHIEF!!
ROG-ER!
WITH-DRAW AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.
HMM ---
THE TANK CROSSED THE BRIDGE!
MAJ-OR!
TOGU-SA! YOU FIND OUT ANY-THING ?!
IT'S AL-READY BEGUN.
WE NEED TO EVAC-UATE THE RESI-DENTS !
NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO STOP IT IN TOWN.
WHAT ?!
HIS BRAIN HAS BEEN HOOKED UP TO THE TANK'S AI.
TAKESHI KAGO IS INSIDE THE TANK.

AND IT'S HEADED TOWARDS KAGO'S PARENTS' HOUSE.
HIS PAR-ENTS' HOUSE ?!
SKREEEE
YES, I'LL SEND THE LOC-ATION.
VOOOOOM
VOOOOOM
ALL RIGHT.
I GOT IT.
SO THE TANK'S JUST VISITING HIS FOLKS ?!

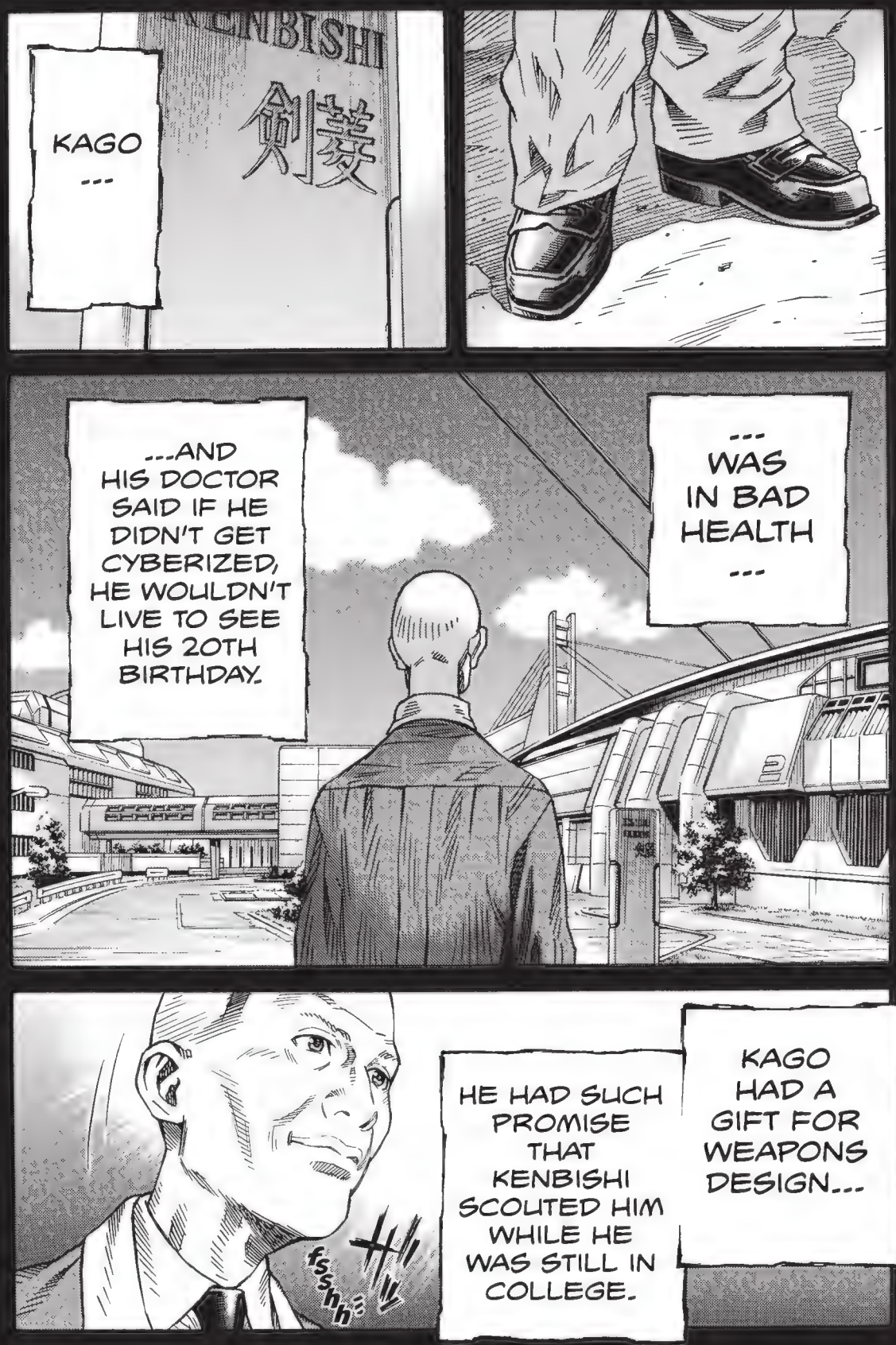
RE-
VENGE
?!
REVENGE AGAINST HIS PARENTS.
WE THINK HE WANTS ---
W-
WHAT?
REVENGE
?
BUT WHY HIS PARENTS ??

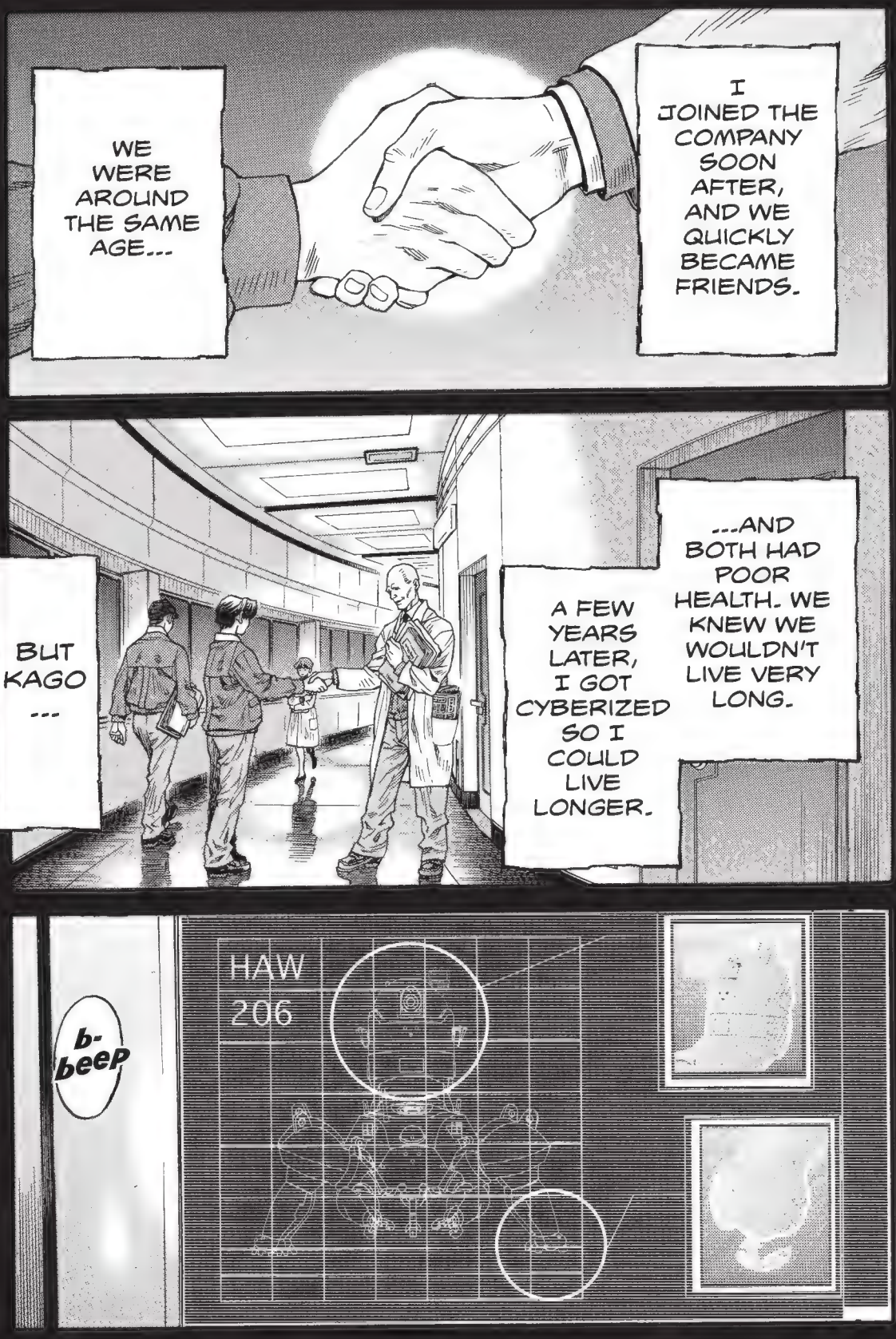
IS GOING ON HERE?
WHAT EX-
ACTLY

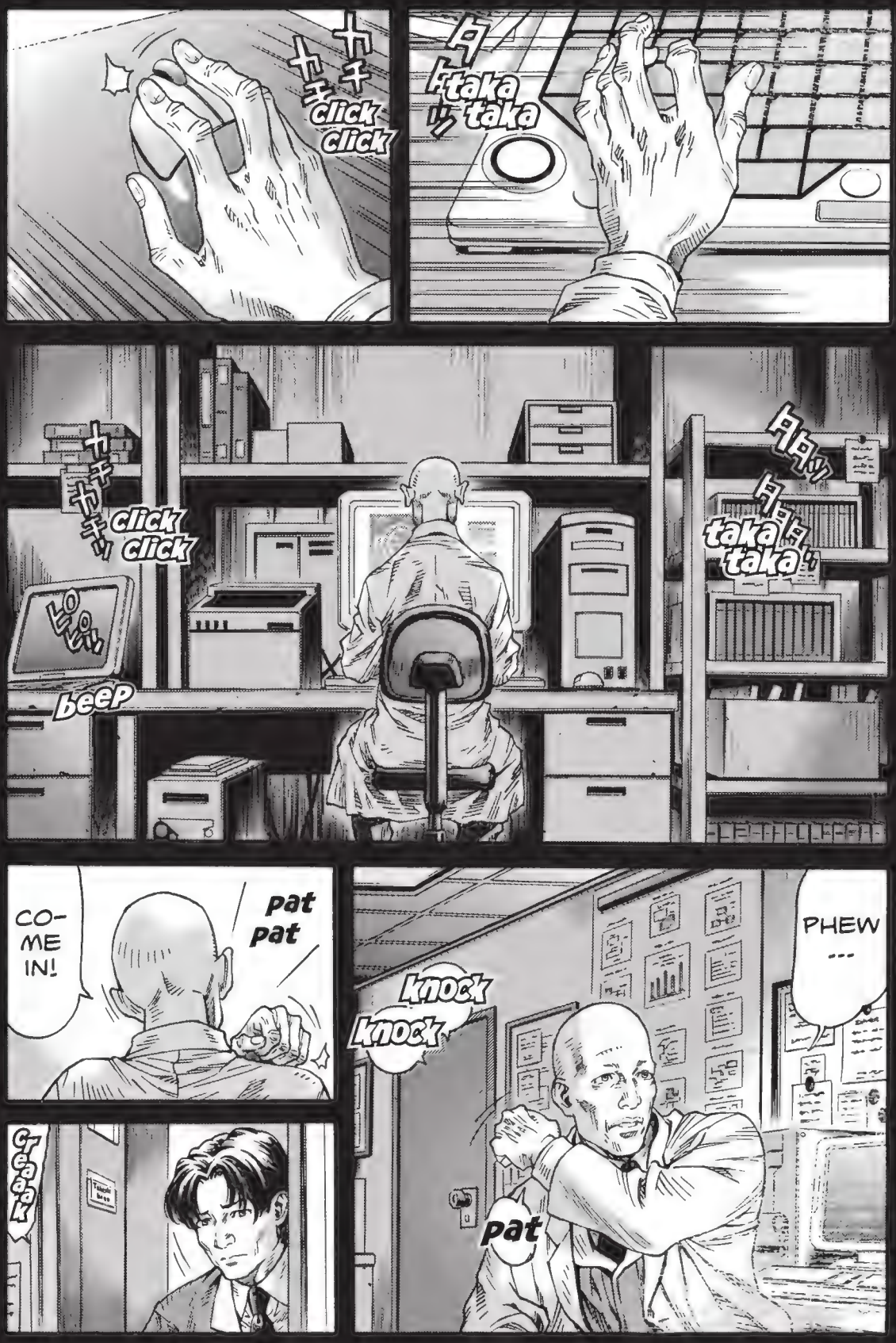
IT'S BE-
CAUSE

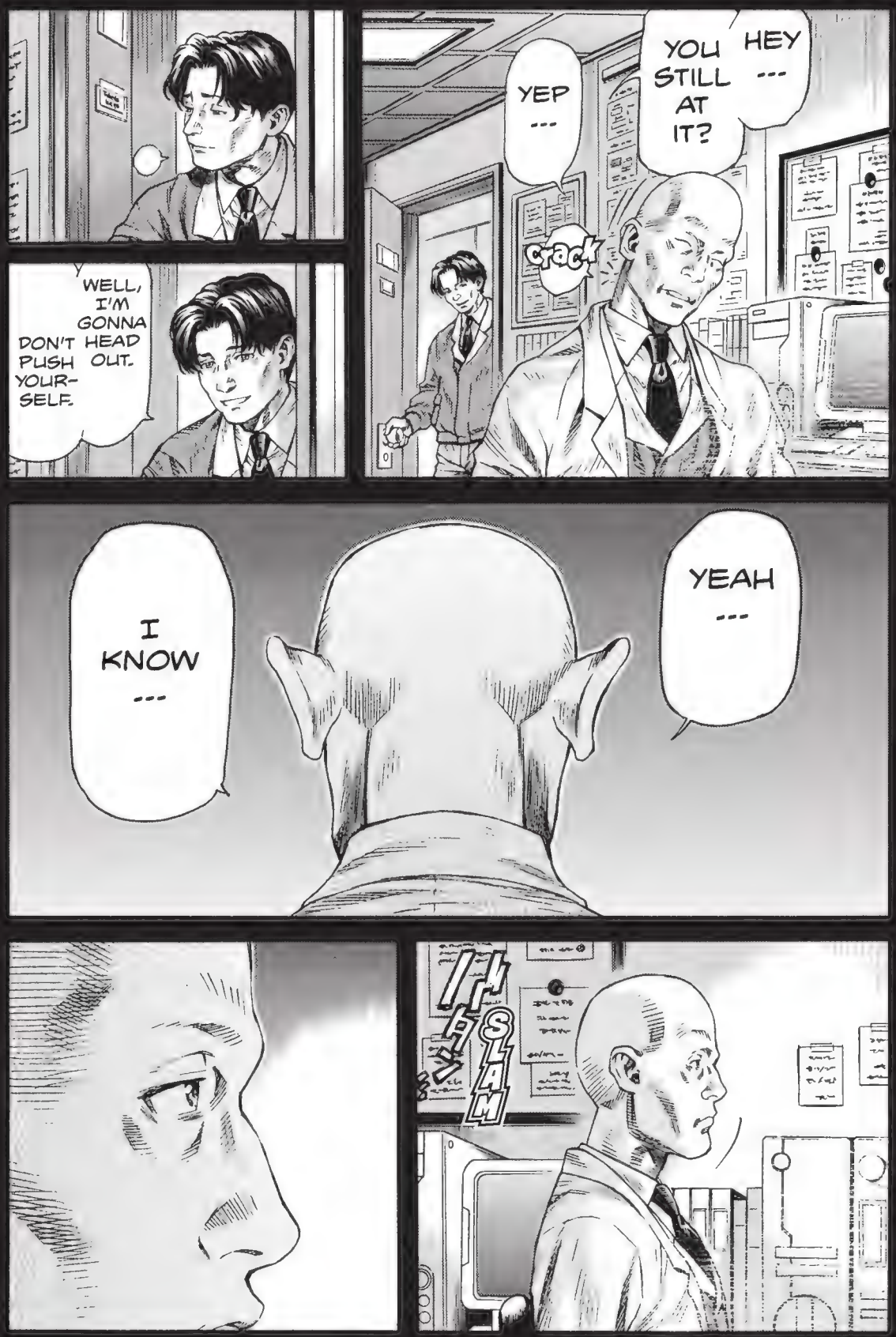
WELL

IT WAS ---
--- KAGO'S LAST RE-QUEST!!


KAGO
...
...AND HIS DOCTOR SAID IF HE DIDN'T GET CYBERIZED, HE WOULDN'T LIVE TO SEE HIS 20TH BIRTHDAY.
... WAS IN BAD HEALTH ...
fsshh
HE HAD SUCH PROMISE THAT KENBISHI SCOUTED HIM WHILE HE WAS STILL IN COLLEGE.
KAGO HAD A GIFT FOR WEAPONS DESIGN...


WE WERE AROUND THE SAME AGE...
I JOINED THE COMPANY SOON AFTER, AND WE QUICKLY BECAME FRIENDS.
BUT KAGO ...
A FEW YEARS LATER, I GOT CYBERIZED SO I COULD LIVE LONGER.
...AND BOTH HAD POOR HEALTH. WE KNEW WE WOULDN'T LIVE VERY LONG.
b-beeP
HAW 206


カチ
カチ
click
click
タ
taka
taka
カチ
カチ
click
click
ピピ
beep
タタ
taka
taka
CO-
ME
IN!
pat
pat
knock
knock
PHEW
...
pat
Creaaak


WELL, I'M GONNA HEAD OUT.
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
HEY ---
YOU STILL AT IT?
YEP ---
crack
YEAH ---
I KNOW ---
SLAM

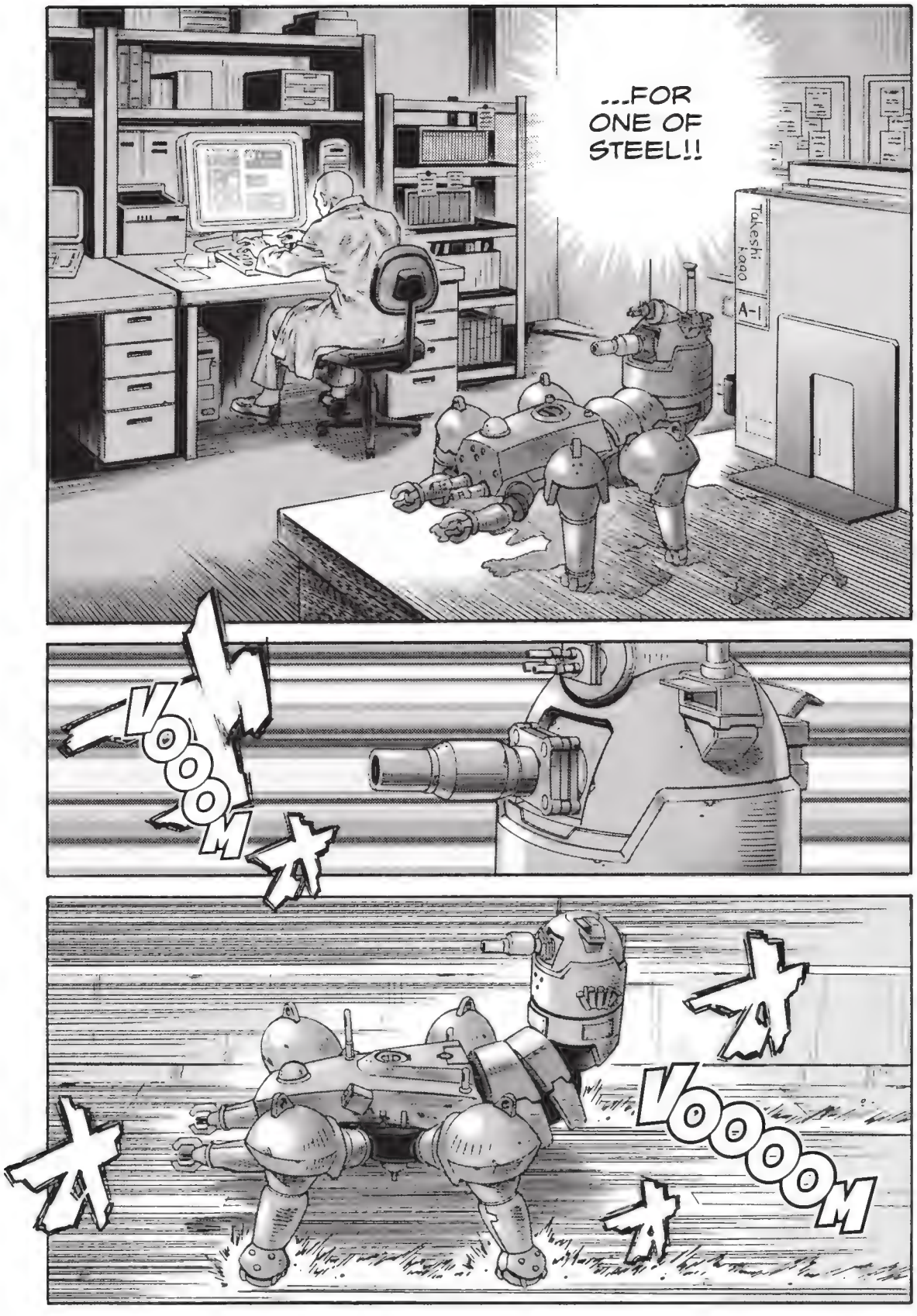
FOOSH
taka taka
taka taka
THANKS, ŌBA...
BUT I...
... DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

HEY ---
HM?
I DON'T MEAN TO PRY, BUT I'VE BEEN WONDER-ING SOME-THING...
WHAT ?
IF KAGO-SAN IS SO ILL...
...AND YOU GET ON HIS CASE SO MUCH ABOUT CYBERIZATION, WHY DOES HE KEEP SAYING NO?

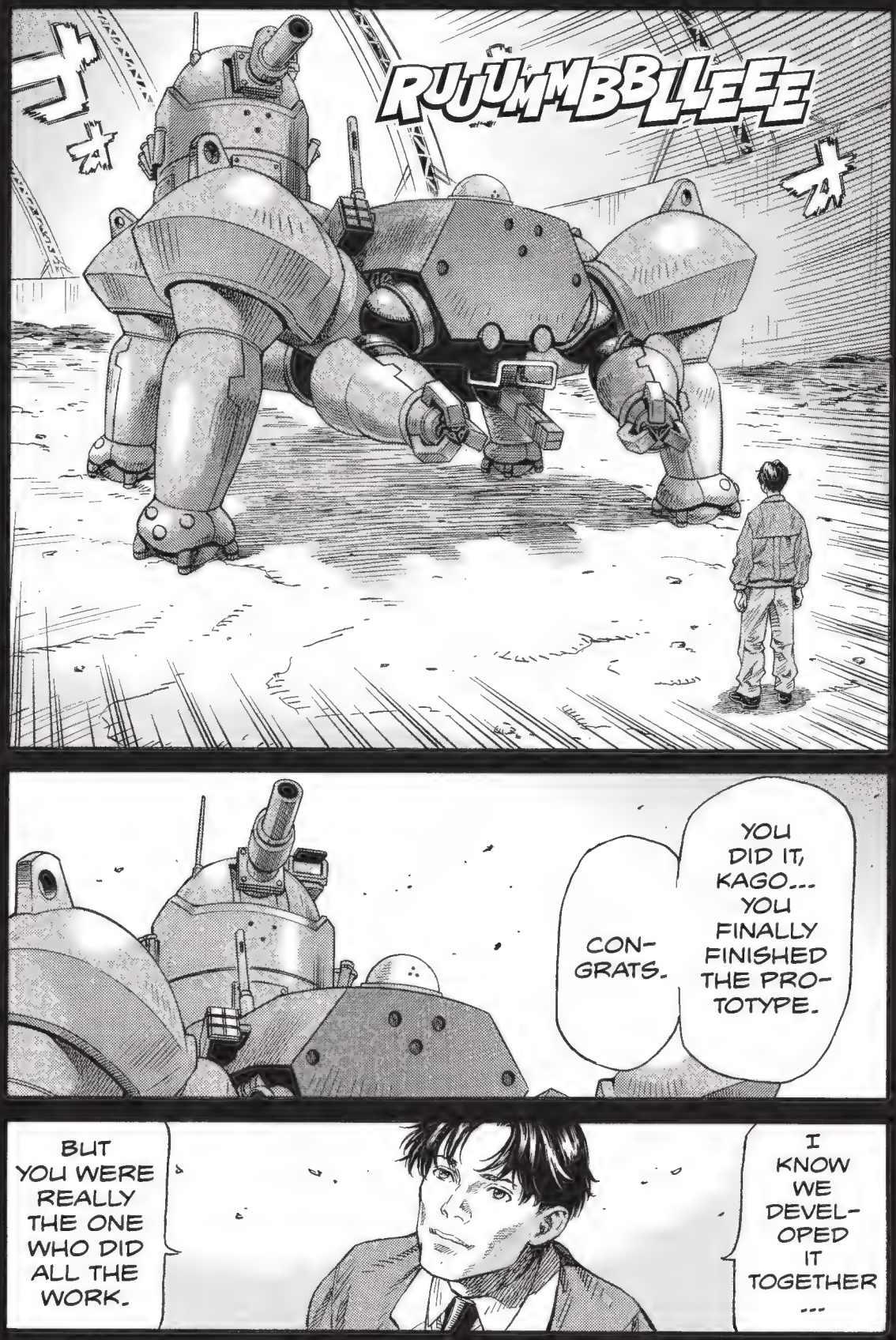
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
--- ISN'T THE ONE WHO DOE- SN'T WANT IT.
--- KAGO ---
WHAT ?
HIS PARENTS ARE COM- PLETELY AGAINST IT.
WELL, KAGO'S PAR- ENTS ARE...
PHEW ---
BUT WHY?

ALL RIGHT ---
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT ---
GA-HAK!
KAFF!
GA-HAK!
KAFF KAFF!
--- VERY RELI-GIOUS ---
--- AND A FUNDA-MENTAL BELIEF OF THEIR RELIGION ---
Splurrttt
Splurrtt

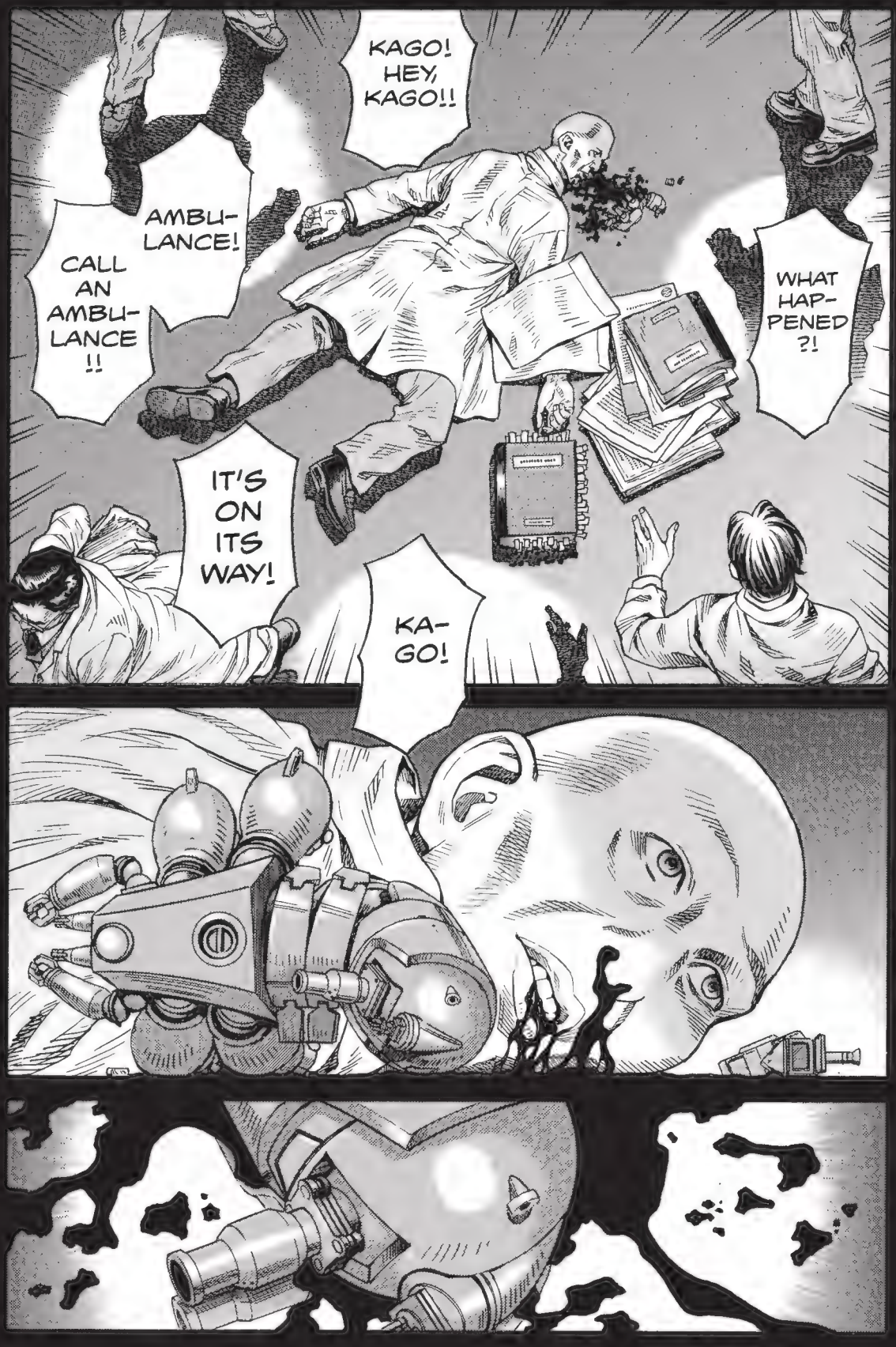
...IS THAT CYBER-BRAINS AND PROS-THETIC BODIES ARE EVIL, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.
SO THAT'S WHY KAGO WON'T DO IT ...
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
WHAT KIND OF PARENTS ARE THEY ?!
THEIR SON'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE!
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THAT!!
PANT
PANT
PAA
I-I CAN'T REST NOW!
KA-HAK !
HACK HACK
taka taka
HURRY UP!
HURRY UP!
HURRY HURRY HURRY HURRY!!
TIME TO TRADE ...
...MY WEAK BODY IN...

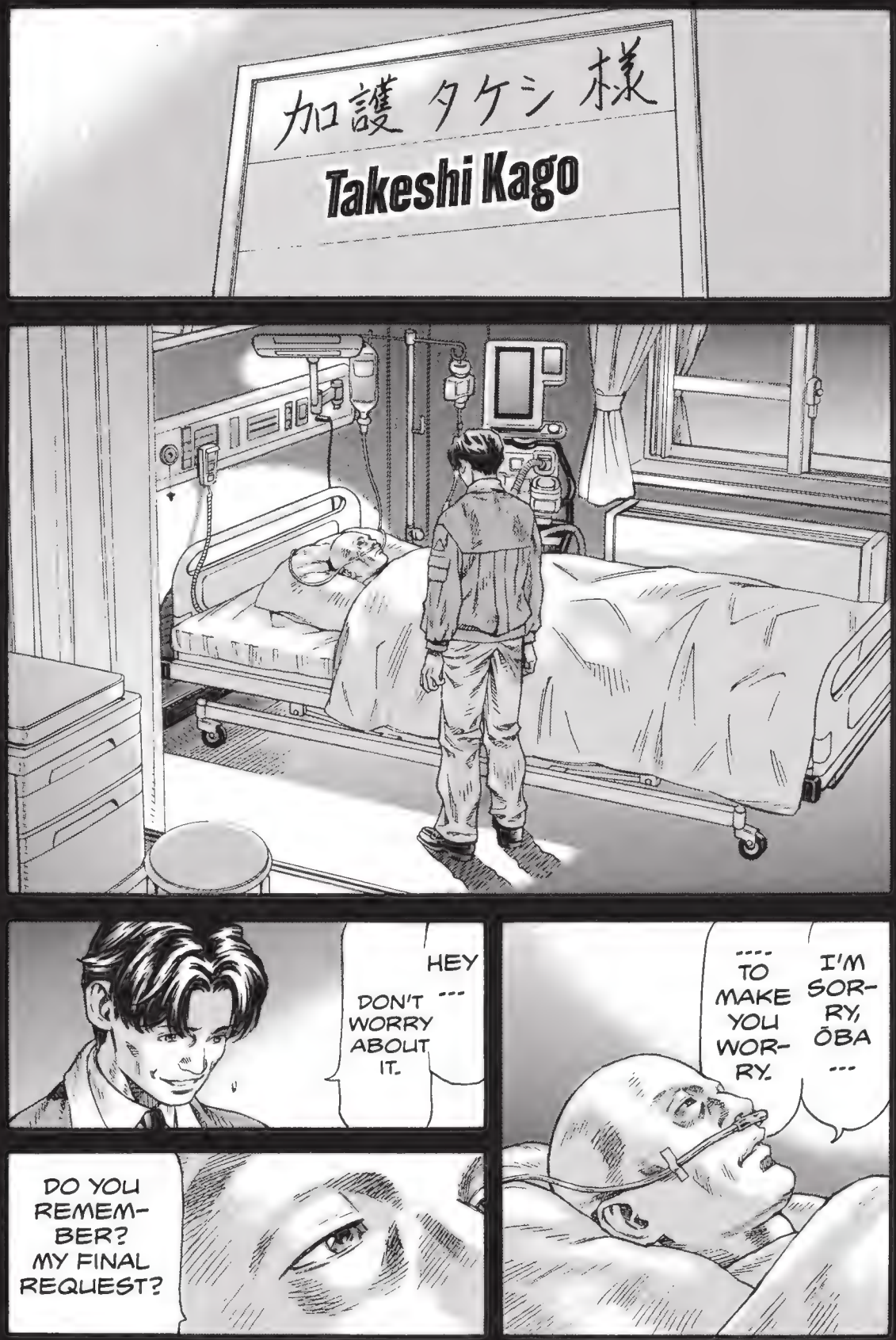

...FOR ONE OF STEEL!!
Takeshi Kago
A-1
VOOOM
VOOOOM

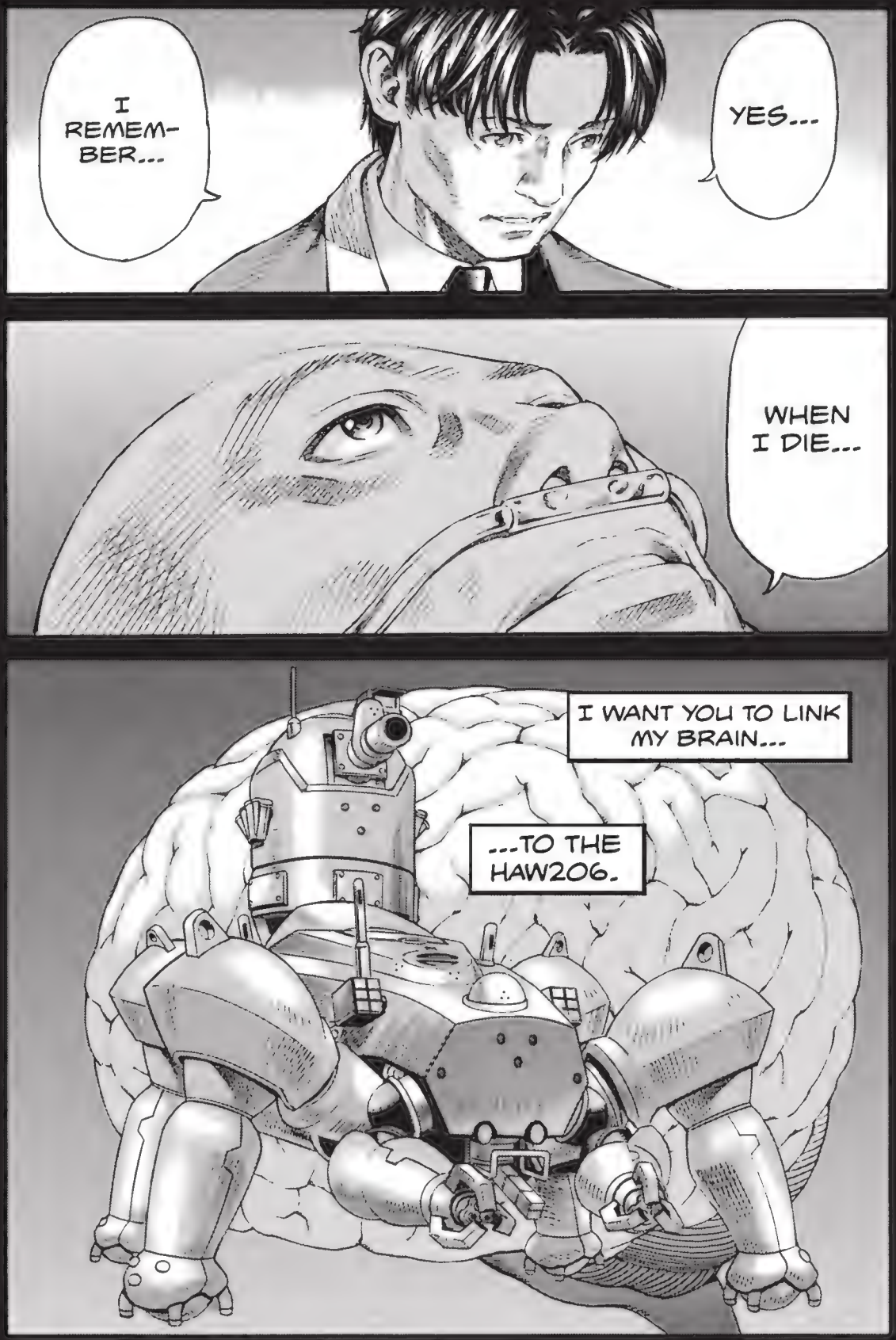
SKREEEE
WHEN KAGO TURNED TWENTY, HE DEVOTED HIMSELF COMPLETELY TO HIS RESEARCH.
HIS DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP THE NEW TANK KEPT HIM ALIVE FOR EIGHT MORE YEARS...
BUT...


RUUMMBBLLEEE
YOU DID IT, KAGO... YOU FINALLY FINISHED THE PROTOTYPE.
CONGRATS.
I KNOW WE DEVELOPED IT TOGETHER ...
BUT YOU WERE REALLY THE ONE WHO DID ALL THE WORK.

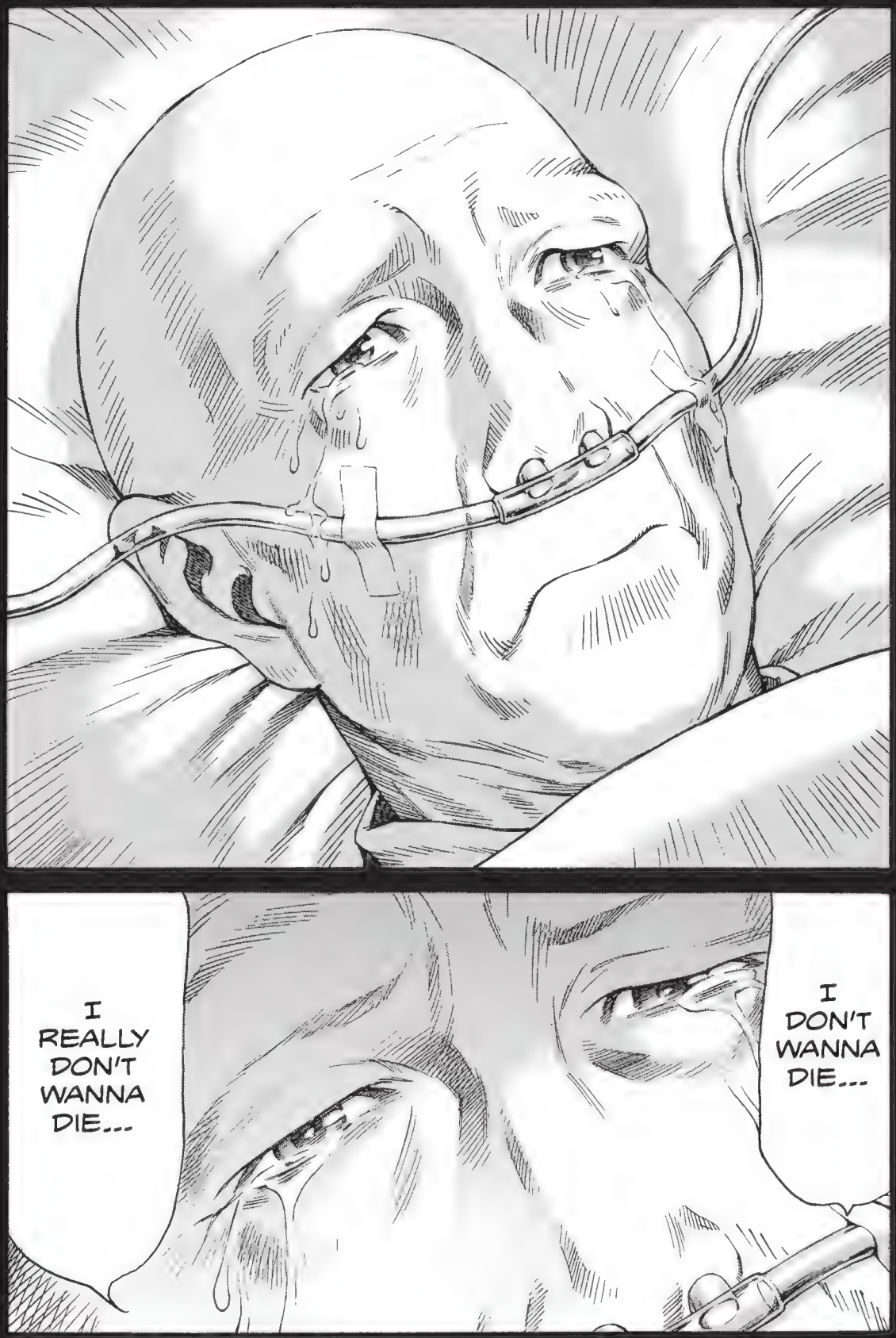
ŌBA-SAN!
IT'S AMAZ-ING ---
ŌBA-SAN!
08
TMP TMP
IT'S ---
IT'S KAGO-SAN!!

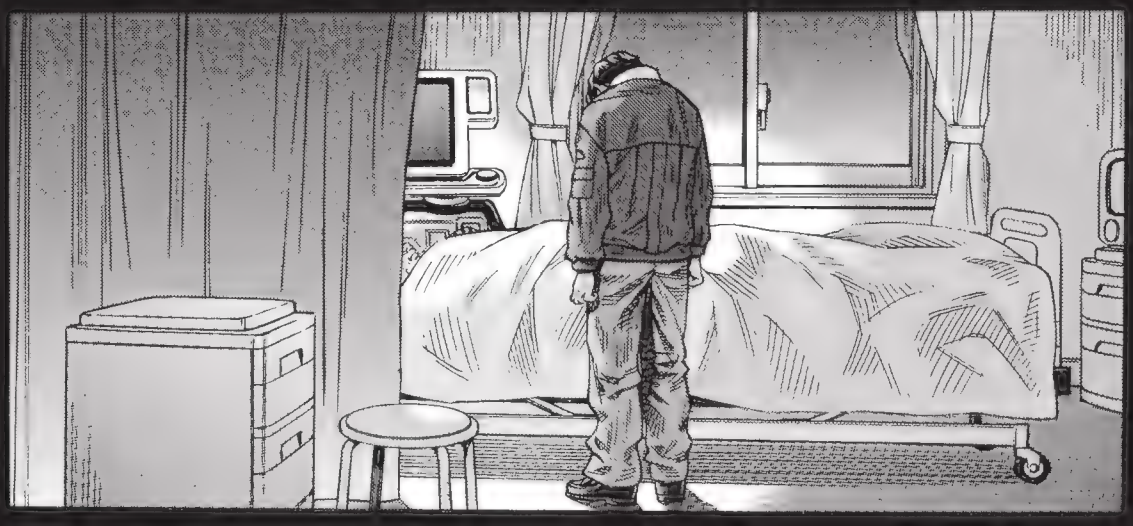

KAGO! HEY, KAGO!!
AMBU-LANCE!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE !!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!
IT'S ON ITS WAY!
KA-GO!

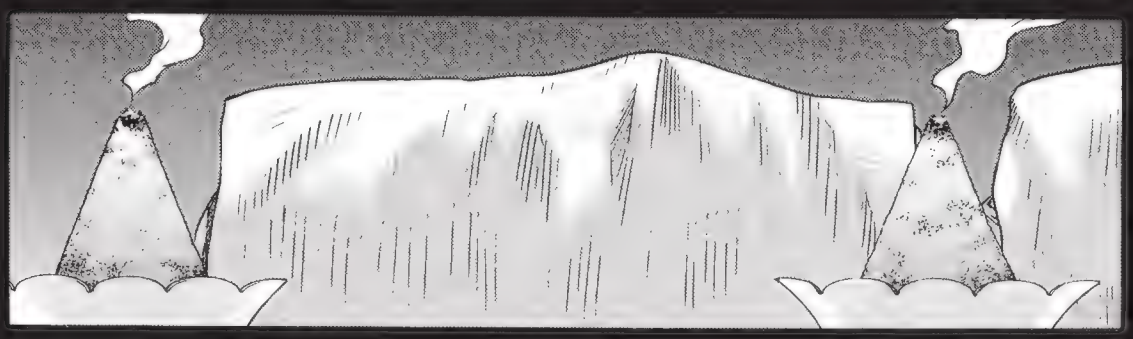

加護 タケシ 様
Takeshi Kago
HEY ---
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY, ŌBA ---
---- TO MAKE YOU WORRY.
DO YOU REMEMBER? MY FINAL REQUEST?


I REMEMBER...
YES...
WHEN I DIE...
I WANT YOU TO LINK MY BRAIN...
...TO THE HAW206.

I'VE ALWAYS LONGED ...
... FOR A STRONG BODY ...
...
WHEN MY BODY DIES, I'LL BE FREE FROM THIS RELIGION.
A BODY...
... MADE OF STEEL ...
I SWEAR I'LL KEEP MY PROM-ISE...
I SWEAR, KAGO..
I WON'T TELL YOU TO...

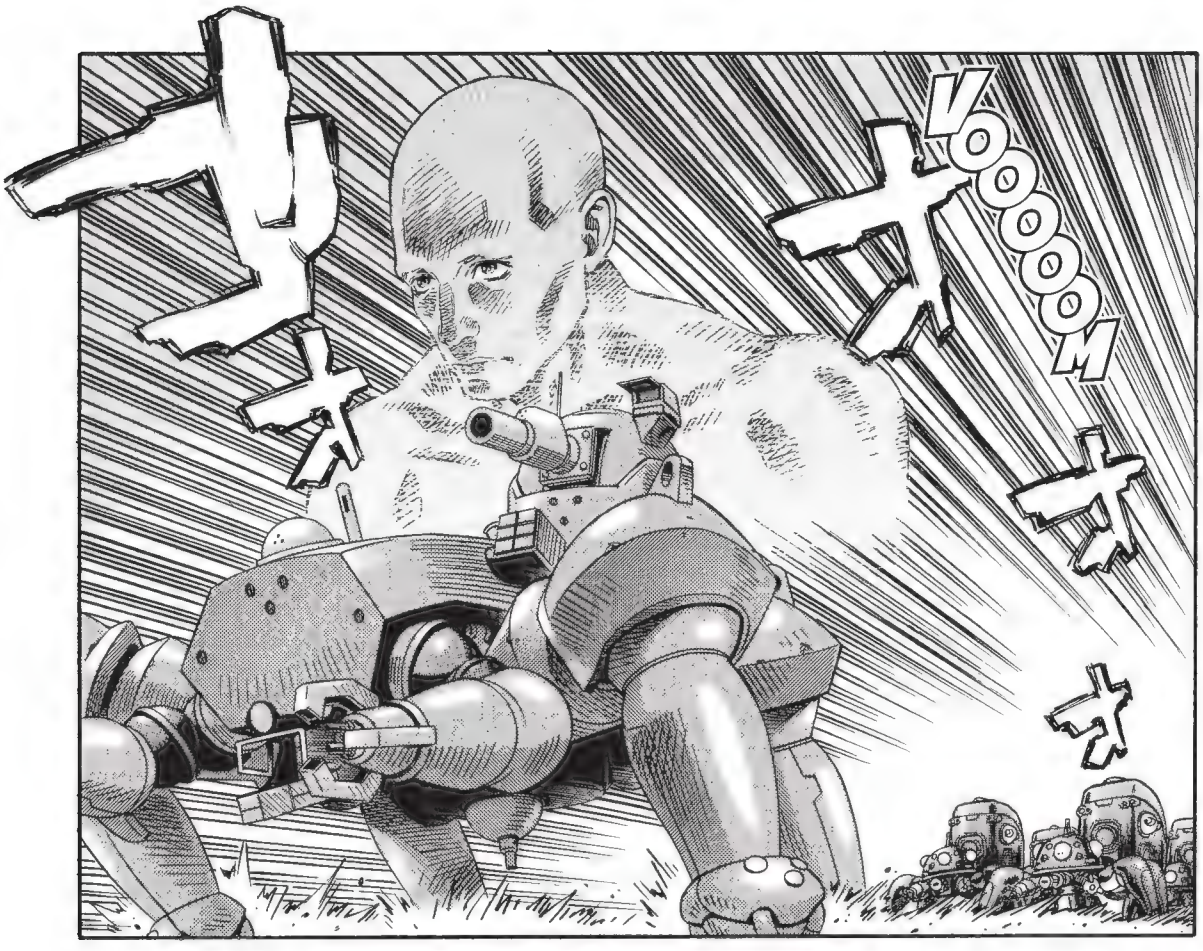

I REALLY DON'T WANNA DIE...
I DON'T WANNA DIE...





Takeshi Kago

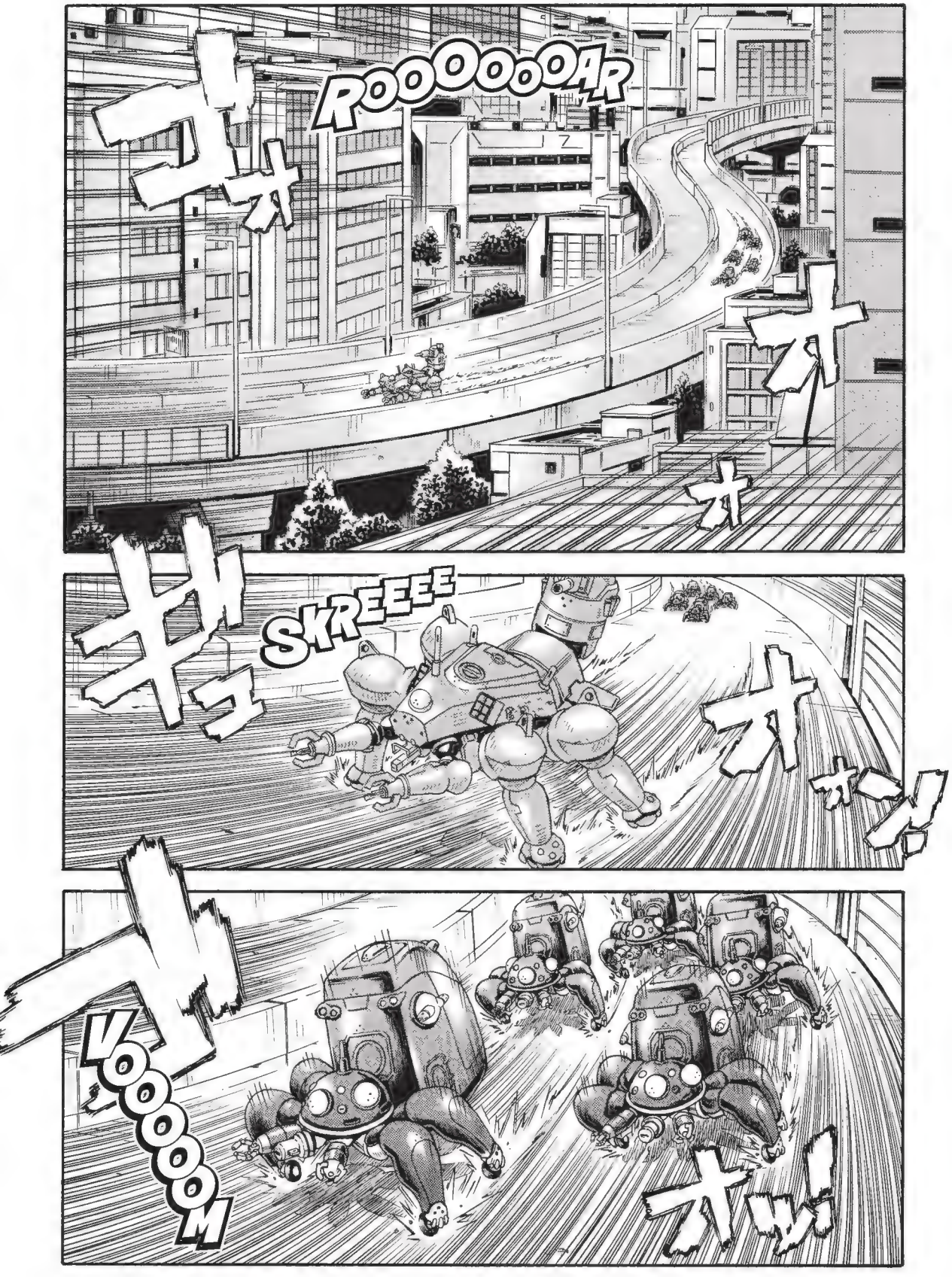
TCH.
HE WAS STUCK ---
--- IN THAT SITUA-TION ---
---AND THAT'S WHY HE WANTS REVENGE ON HIS PARENTS?
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THIS ---
THAT'S WHAT WE THINK.


ドド
VOOOOOM
ド
ド

HOW CAN WE STOP IT??
A MIGHTY TANK HELL BENT ON REVENGE ---

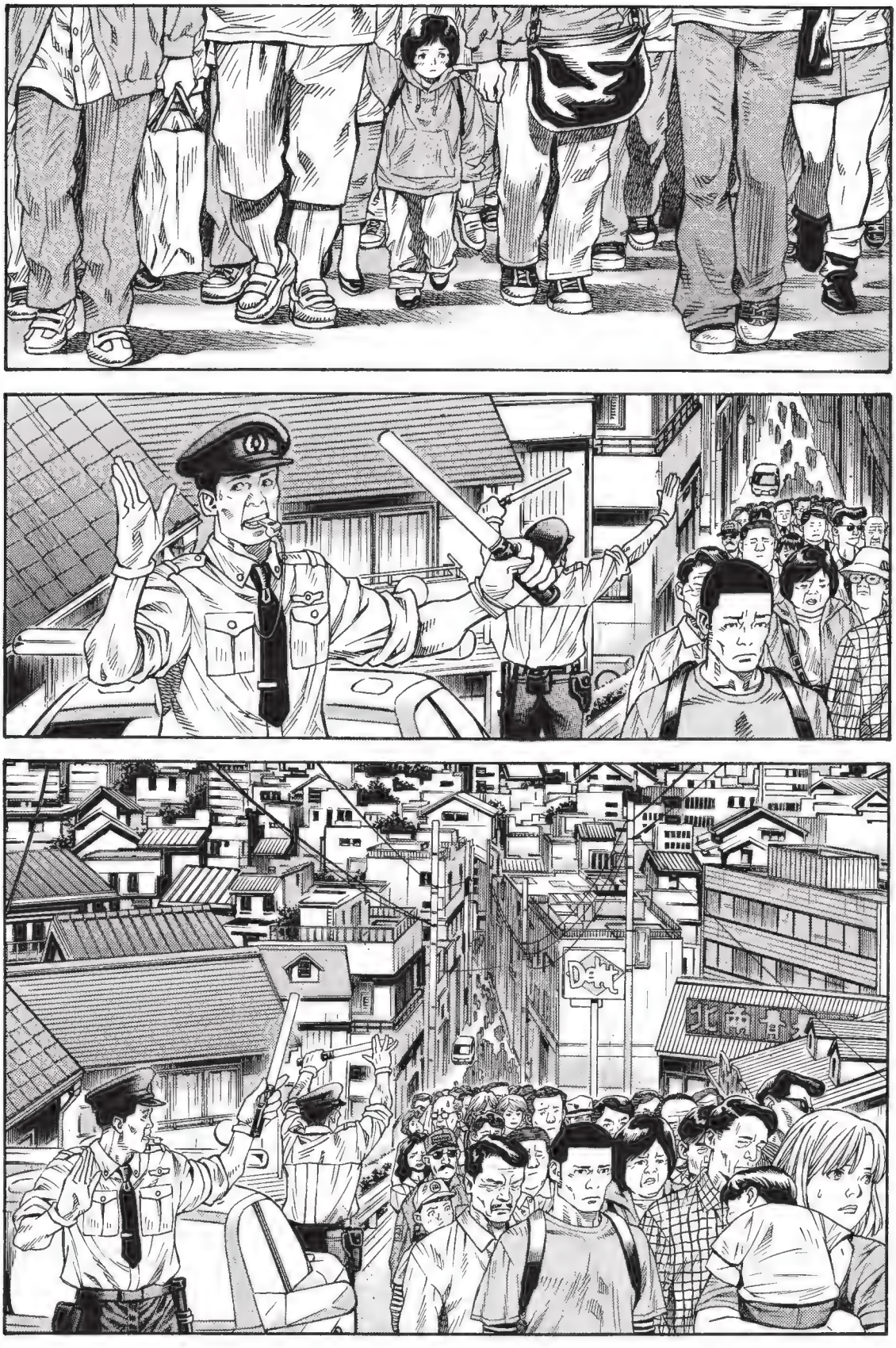
#015 / End

#016: Battle in the City

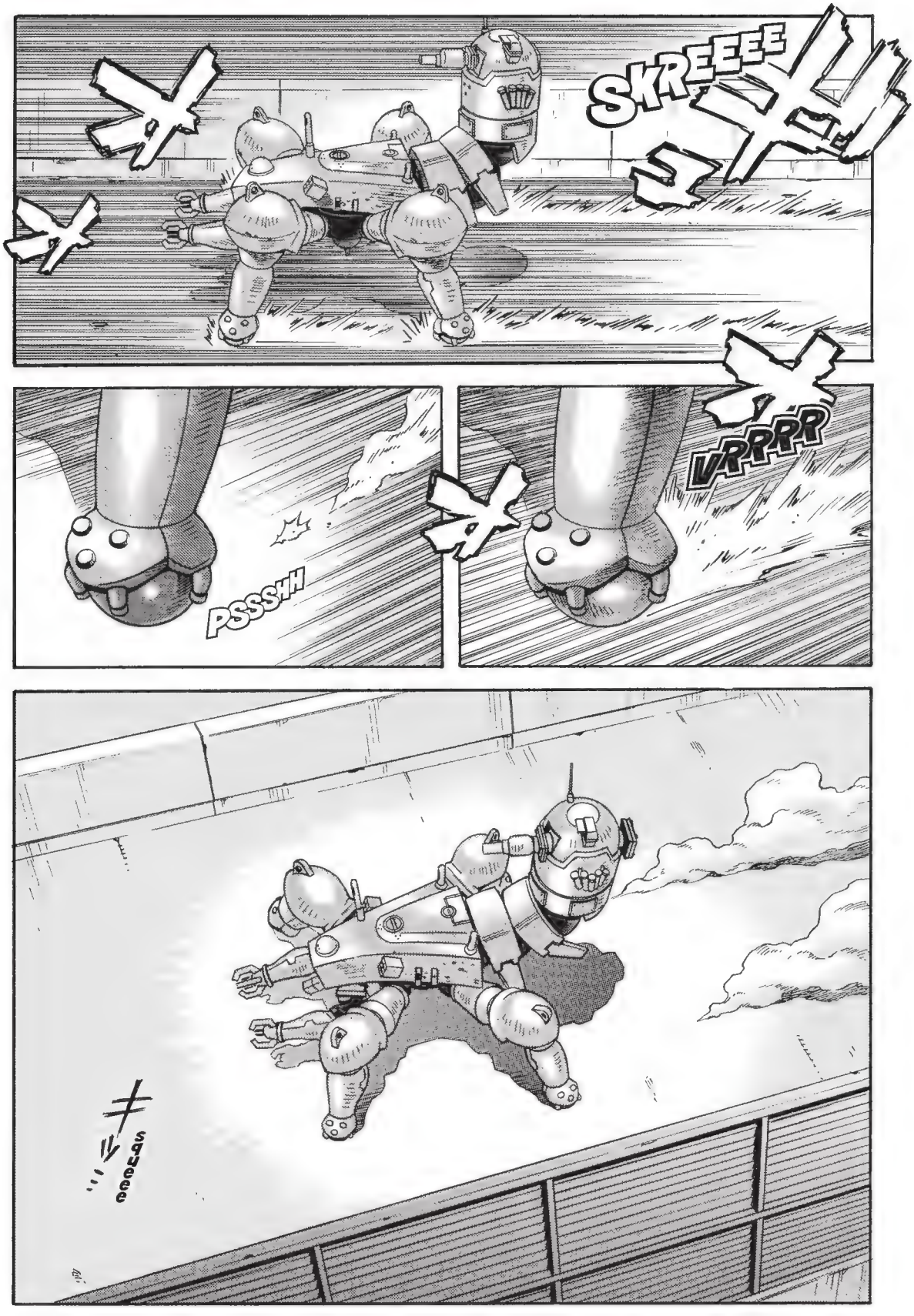

ROOOOOOAR
SKREEEE
VOOOOOM

VOOOOOM
TAKESHI KAGO DIED WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST HIS PARENTS WHO HAD FORBIDDEN HIM FROM GETTING CYBERIZED.
HE HAD HIS BRAIN LINKED WITH A TANK HE CREATED AND WANTS REVENGE AGAINST HIS PARENTS.
UNBE-LIEV-ABLE!

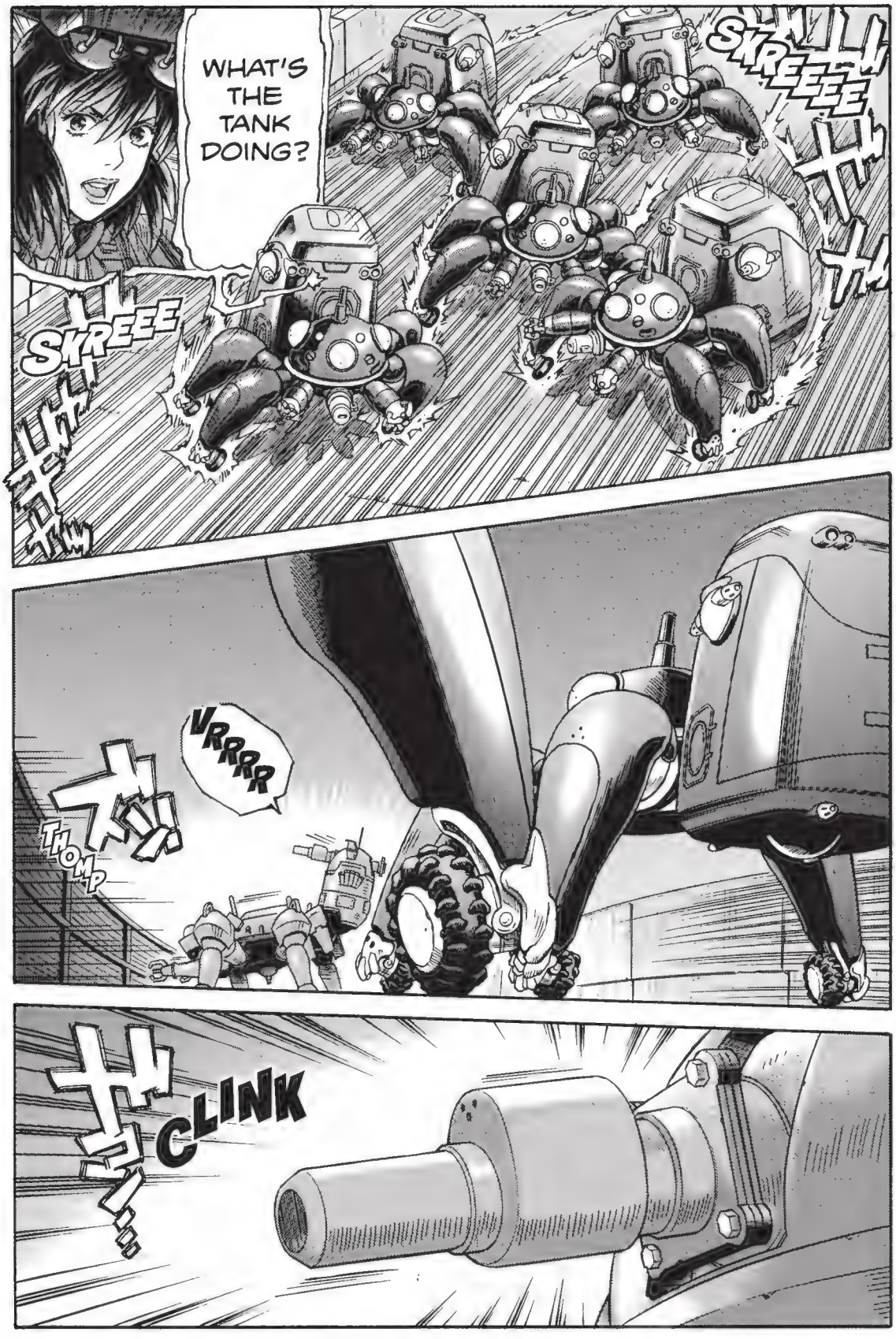
SKREEEE
THE RESI-DENTS SHOULD ALL BE EVACU-ATED BY NOW.
UN-FOR-TU-NATE-LY FOR KAGO ---
---HIS PARENTS HAVE PROB-ABLY EVACU-ATED AS WELL.
RUMBLE



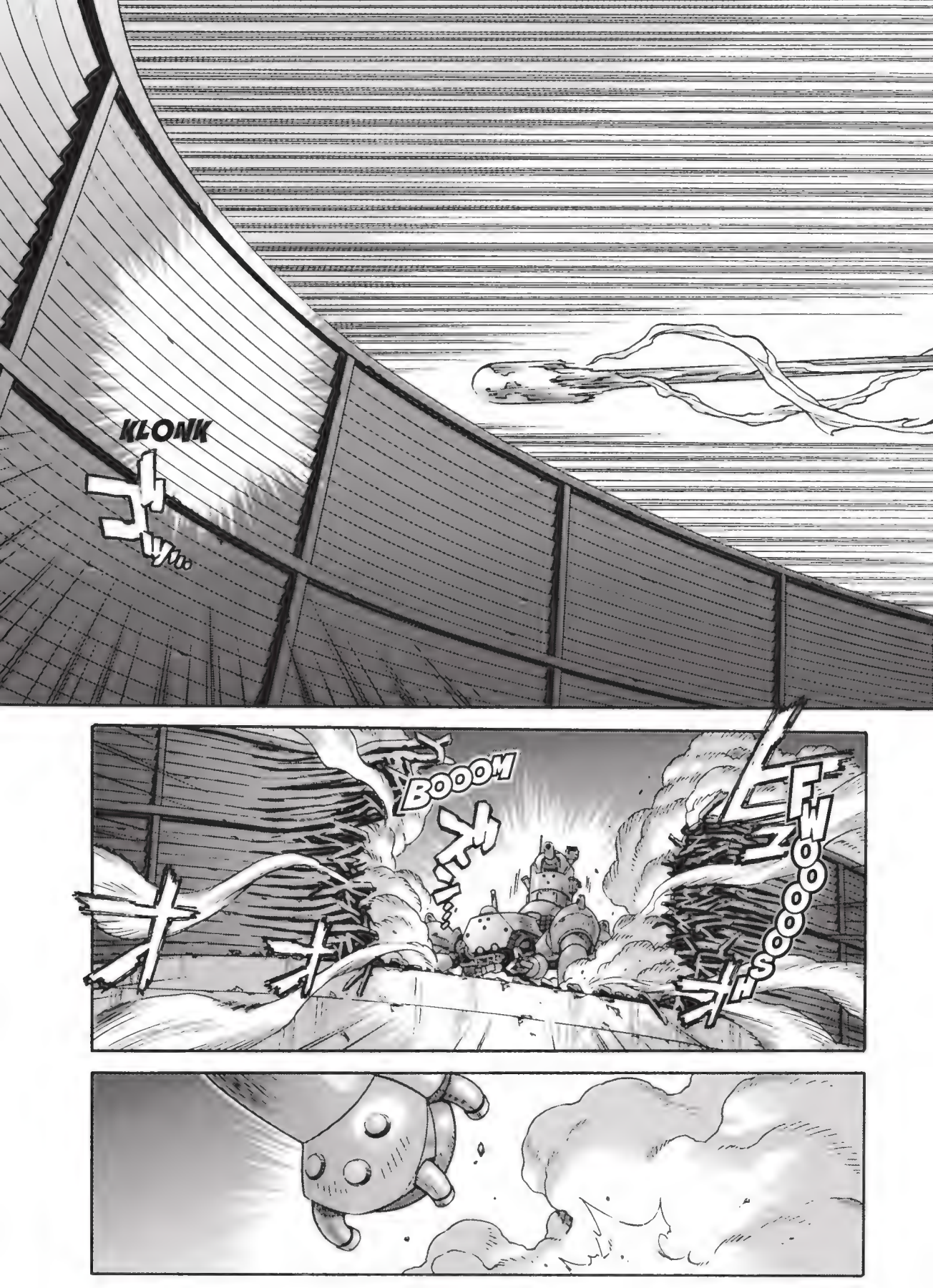
ゴ
ROOOOOOOAR
オ
オ
VOOOOOM
オ
オ
メ

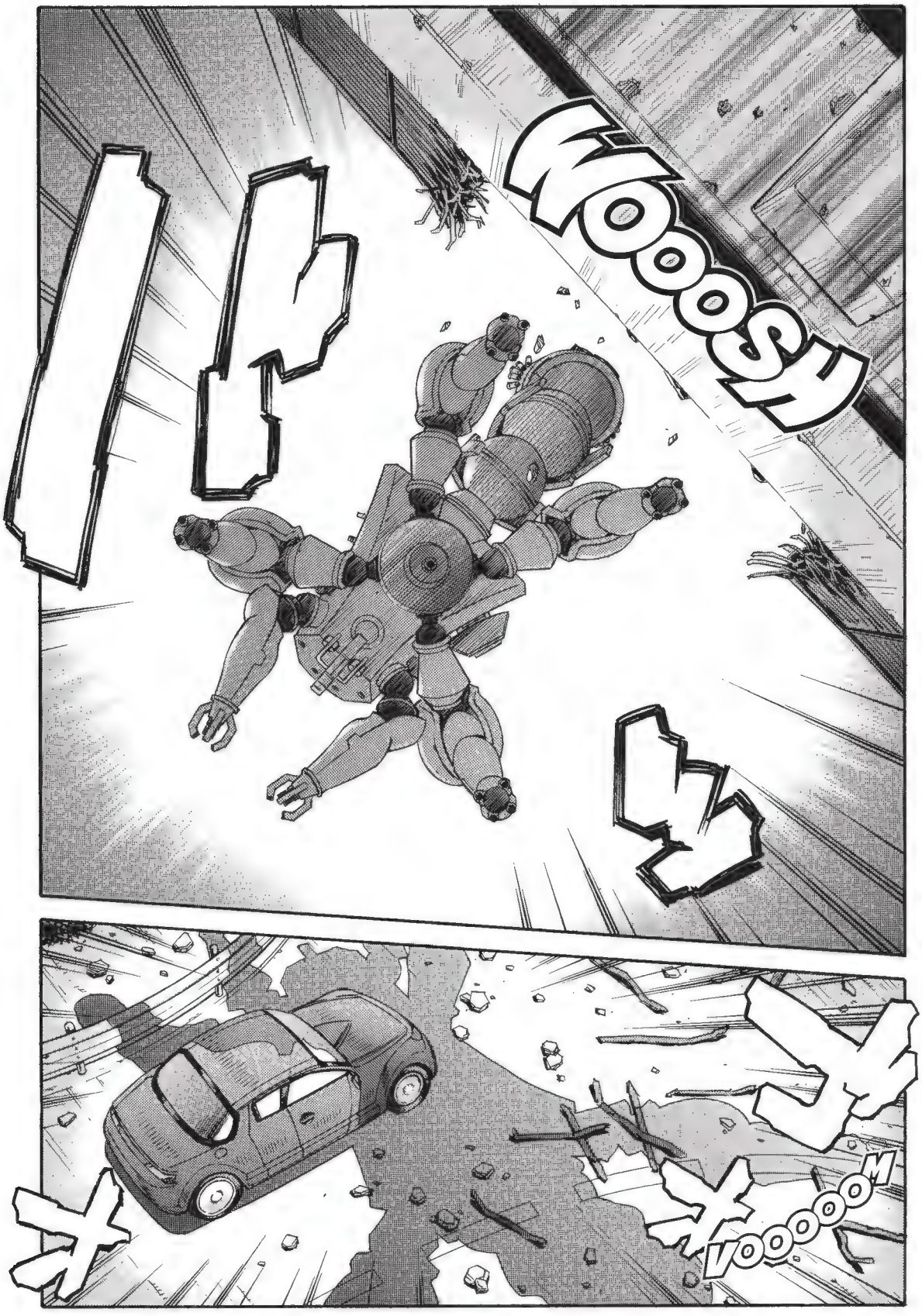

SKREEEE
PSSSHH
VRRRR

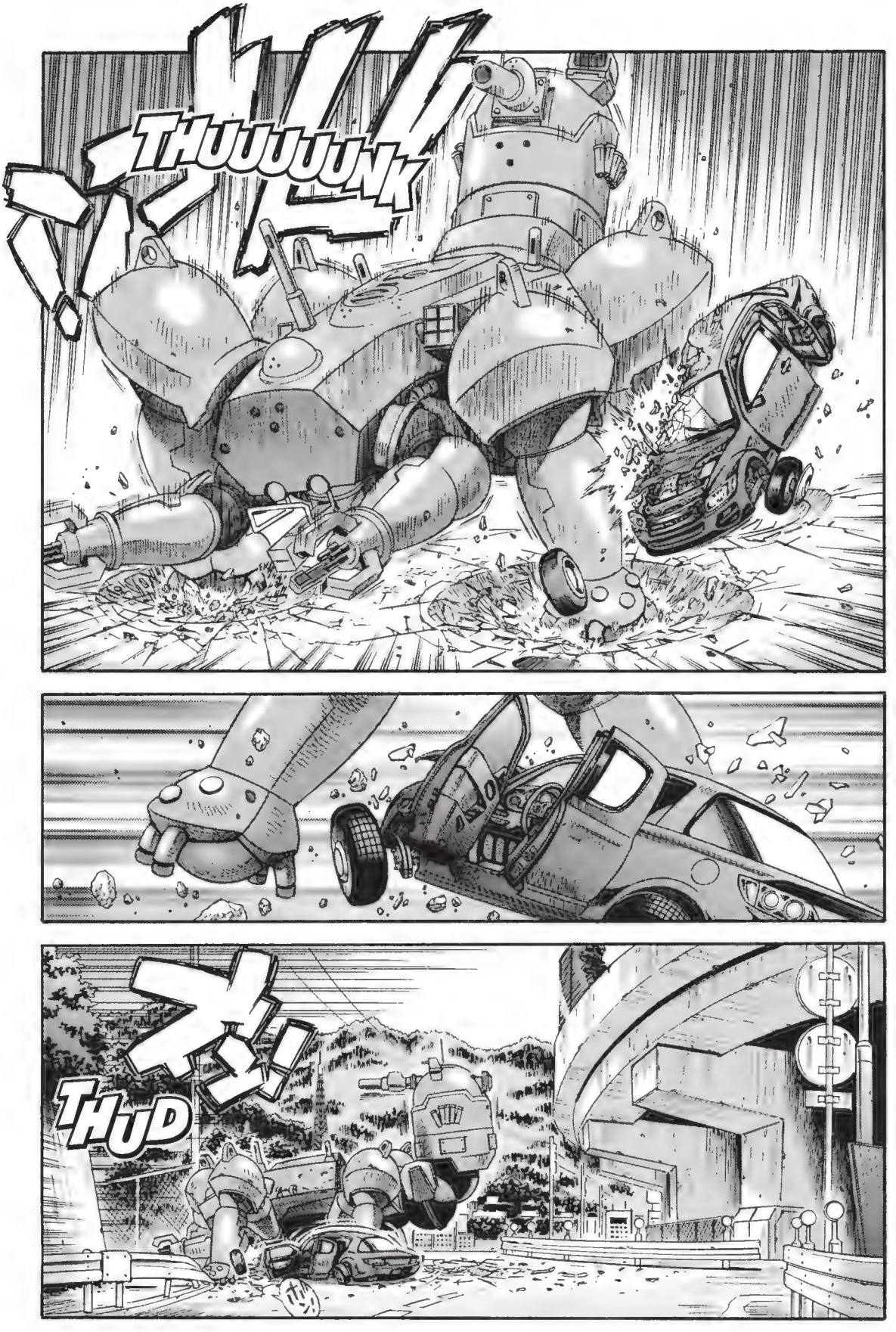
SKREEEE
IT STOP-PED ?!
KRSSSH
SKREEEE
SKRE
KRSSSH
THOMP
SKRE
SKRE
SKRE

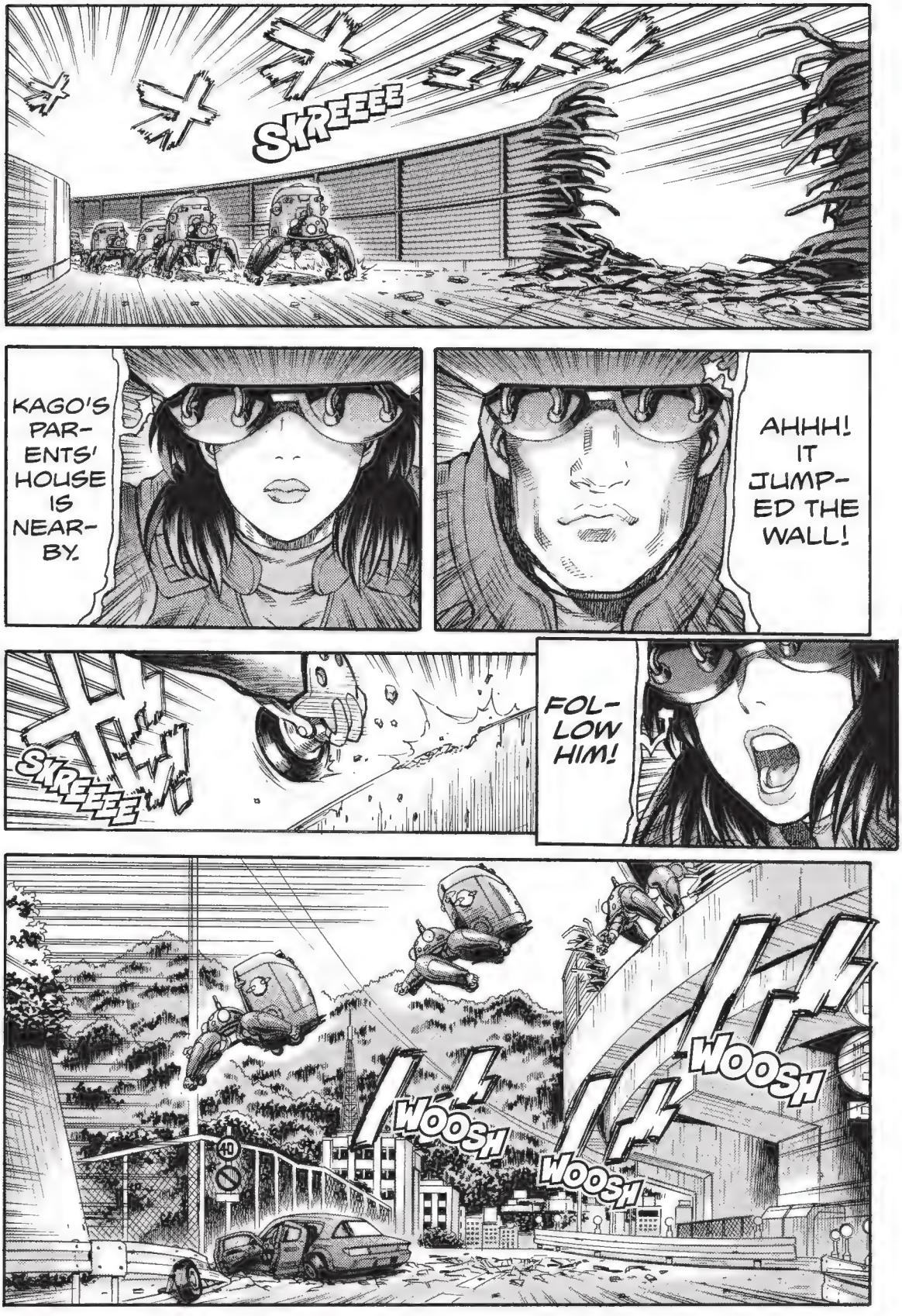

WHAT'S THE TANK DOING?
SKREEEE
SKREEEE
VRRRRR
THOMP
CLINK

PA-CHOOOO
BA-BOOOOOM

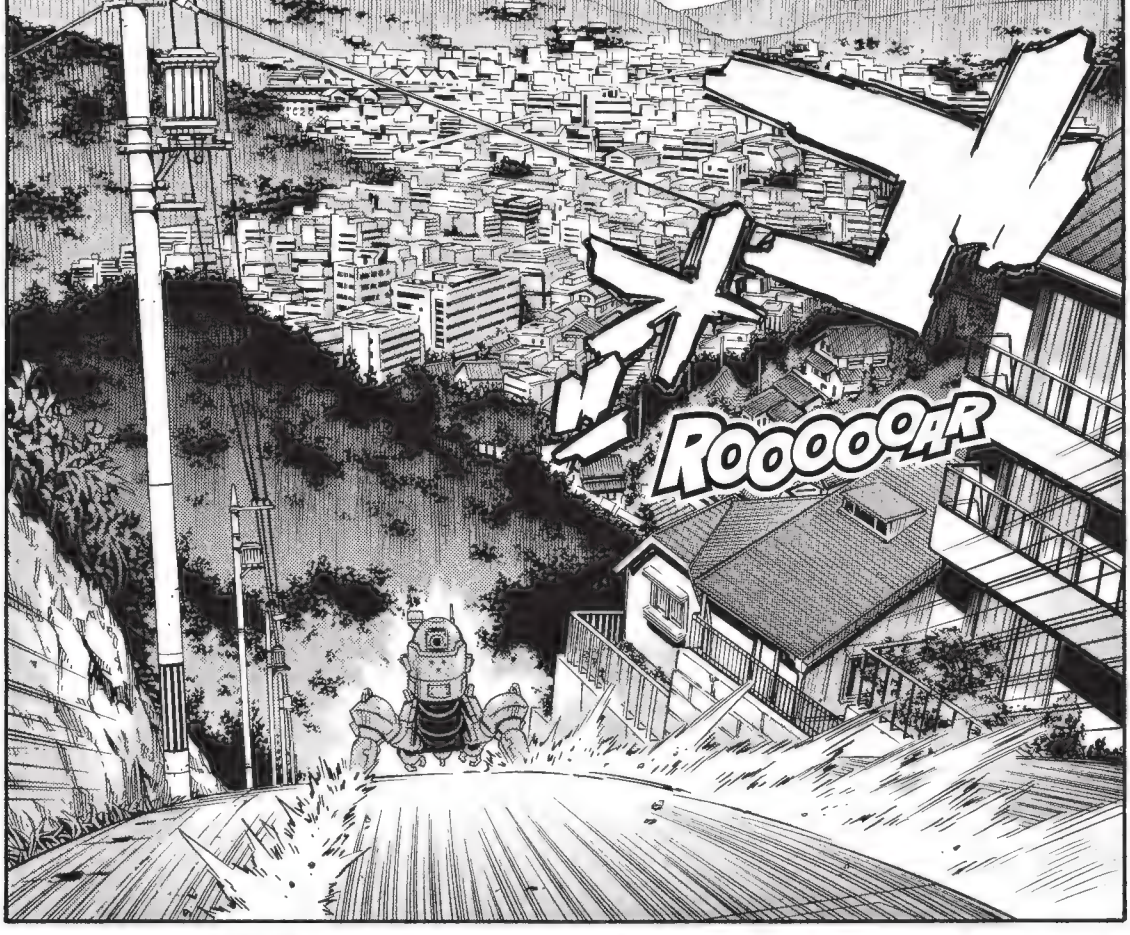

KLONK
BOOOM
FWOOOOOSH

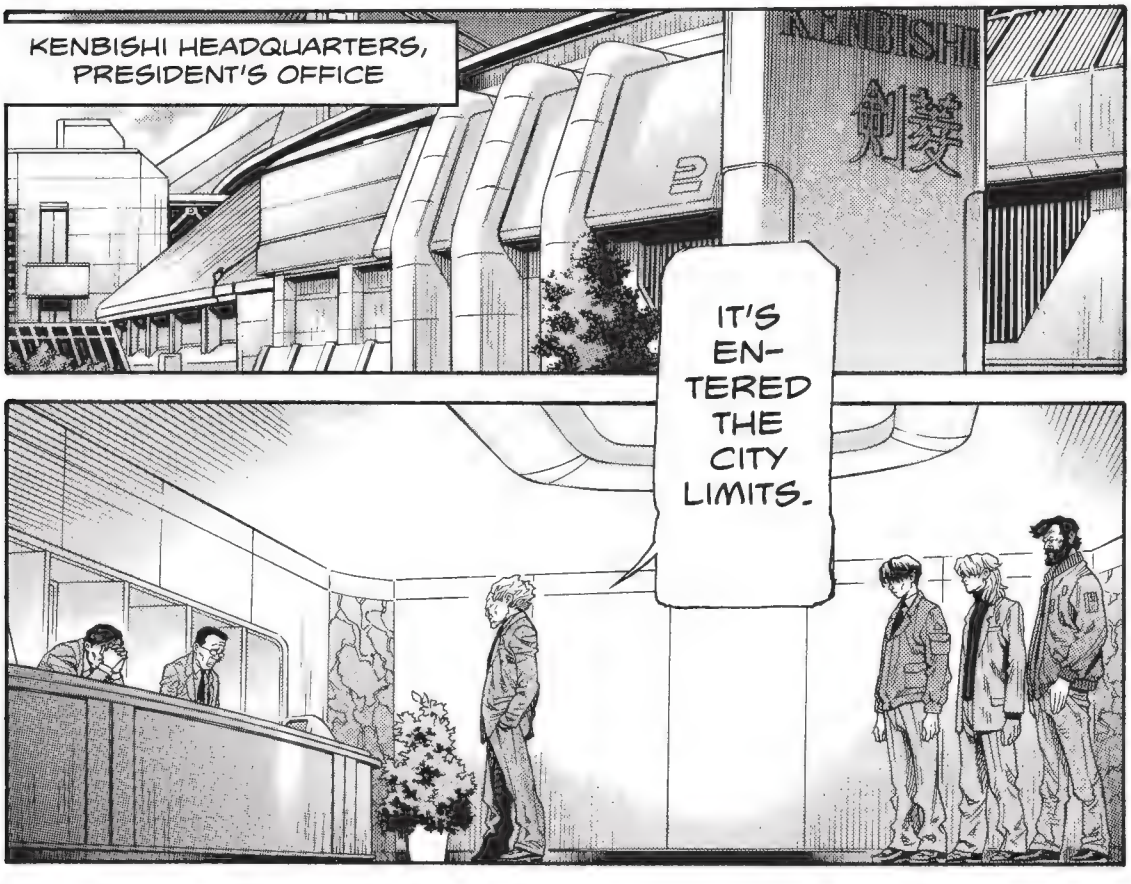

WHOOSH
VOOOOOM


THUUUUUNK
THUD


SKREEEE
KAGO'S PAR-ENTS' HOUSE IS NEAR-BY.
AHHH! IT JUMP-ED THE WALL!
SKREEEE
FOL-LOW HIM!
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
40

WOOOOSH
KATOOOOONK
WE CAN'T BEAT HIM WITH JUST THE TACHIKOMA.
SHOULD WE BRING OUT THE SPECIAL FORCES?
NOT MY STYLE.
VOOOOOM


ROOOOOAR

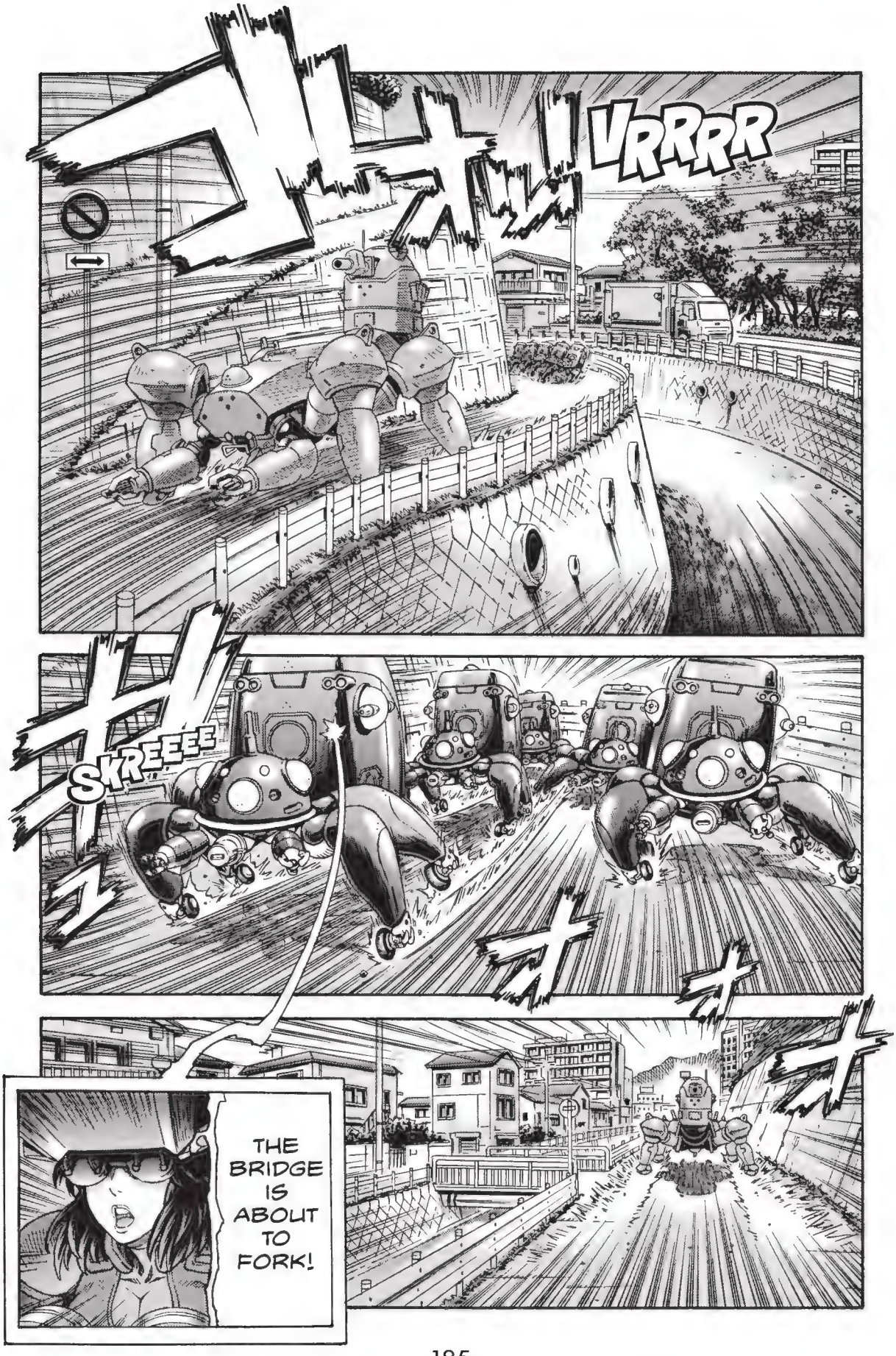

KENBISHI HEADQUARTERS, PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
KENBISHI
剣愛
IT'S ENTERED THE CITY LIMITS.

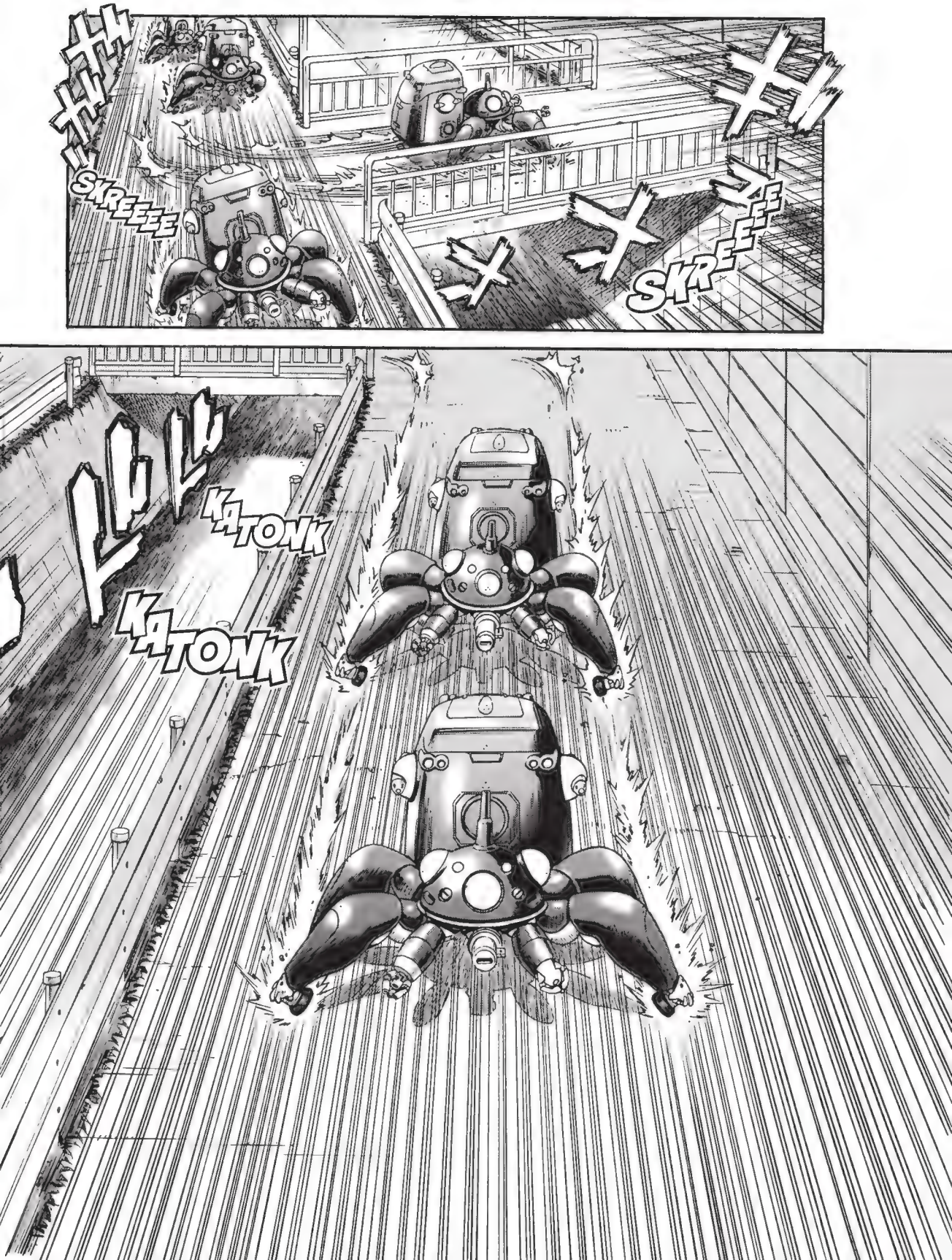
AS OF YET, THERE HASN'T BEEN ONE CASUALTY.
HOWEVER ---
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM HERE.
I NEED YOUR DECISION!
--- NO CASUALTIES ---
THERE'S STILL ---

IT'S FOR THE BEST.
PRESI-DENT, THAT'S ---
GRAB
rattle
CLINK
KENBISHI
EVERY-THING WE HAVE ON IT.
THIS HAS ALL THE TOP SECRET DATA ON HAW206.

I'M DOING THIS ---
--- NOT FOR MYSELF ---
--- BUT FOR THE FUTURE OF KENBISHI INDUS-TRIES.
FOOSH
P-PRES-IDENT ---

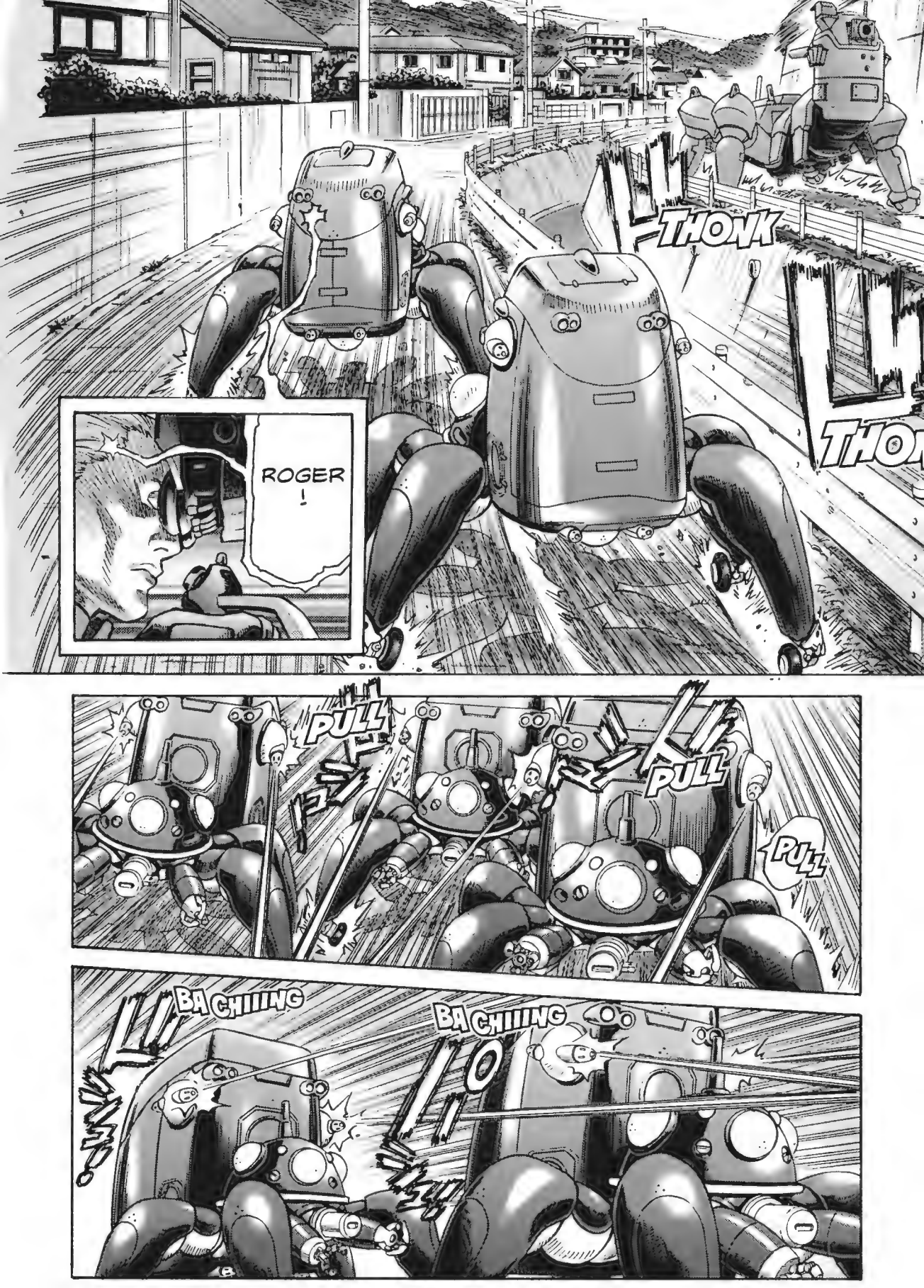
... YOUR COOP-ERATION.
WE APPRE-CIATE ...
ISHI-KAWA!
YES!
SEND THE DATA TO THE MAJOR RIGHT AWAY!
ROG-ER!
VOOOOOM

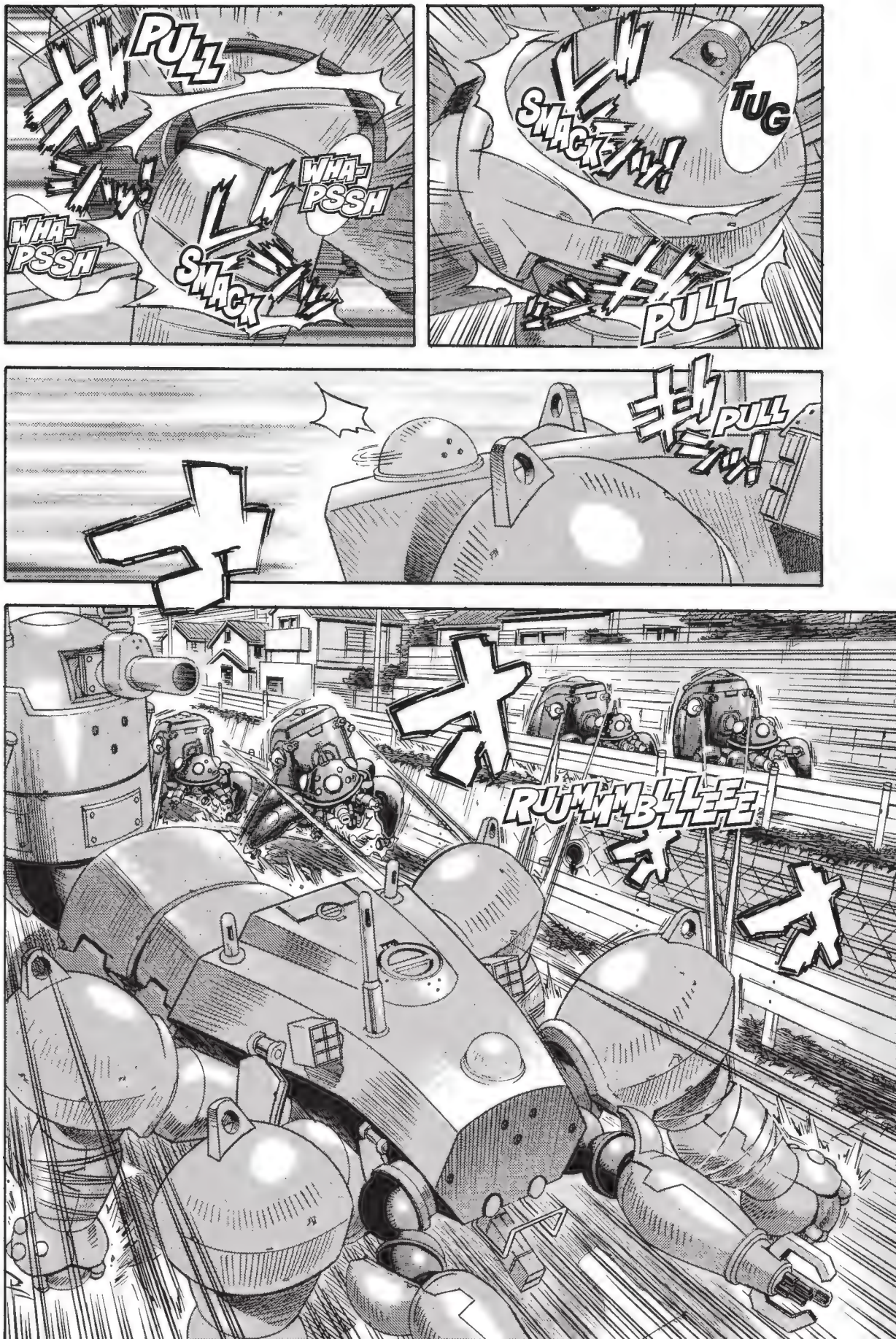

VRRRR
SKREEEE
THE BRIDGE IS ABOUT TO FORK!

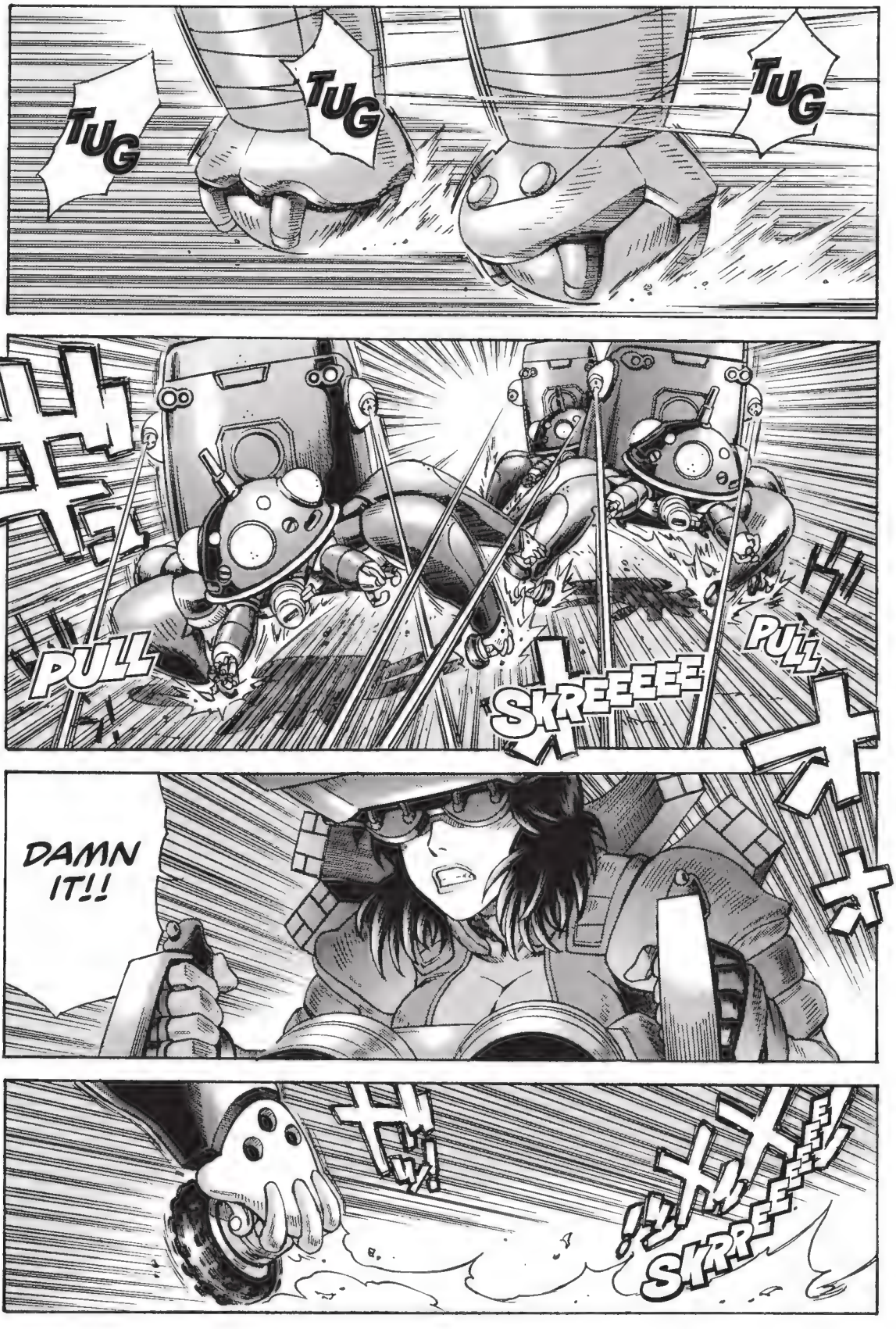

SKREEEE
SKREE
KATONK
KATONK

SKREEE
skrrritch
SKREEE
SKREEE
THONK
THONK
DON'T LET HIM GET ANY CLOSER TO THE CITY!!

AIM FOR THE TANK'S LEGS WITH YOUR WIRES!
THONK
THONK
♪ ROG-EEER! ♪♪
パシュ!
PASHAAA


THONK
ROGER !
PULL
PULL
PULL
BA CHIIING
BA CHIIING


PULL
WHA-PSSH
WHA-PSSH
SMACK
SMACK
TUG
PULL
PULL
RUMMBLEE

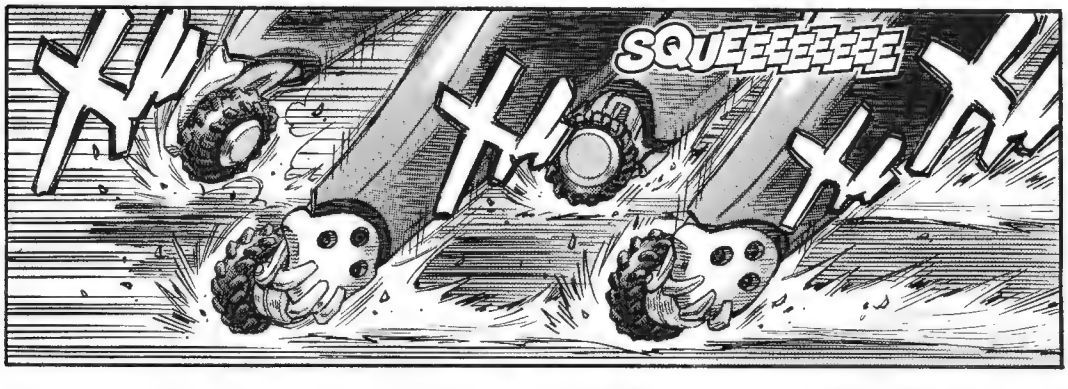

TUG
TUG
TUG
PULL
SKREEEEE
PULL
DAMN IT!!
SKRRE

B-B-B-B-BUMP
RUUUMMMBLEEE
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE

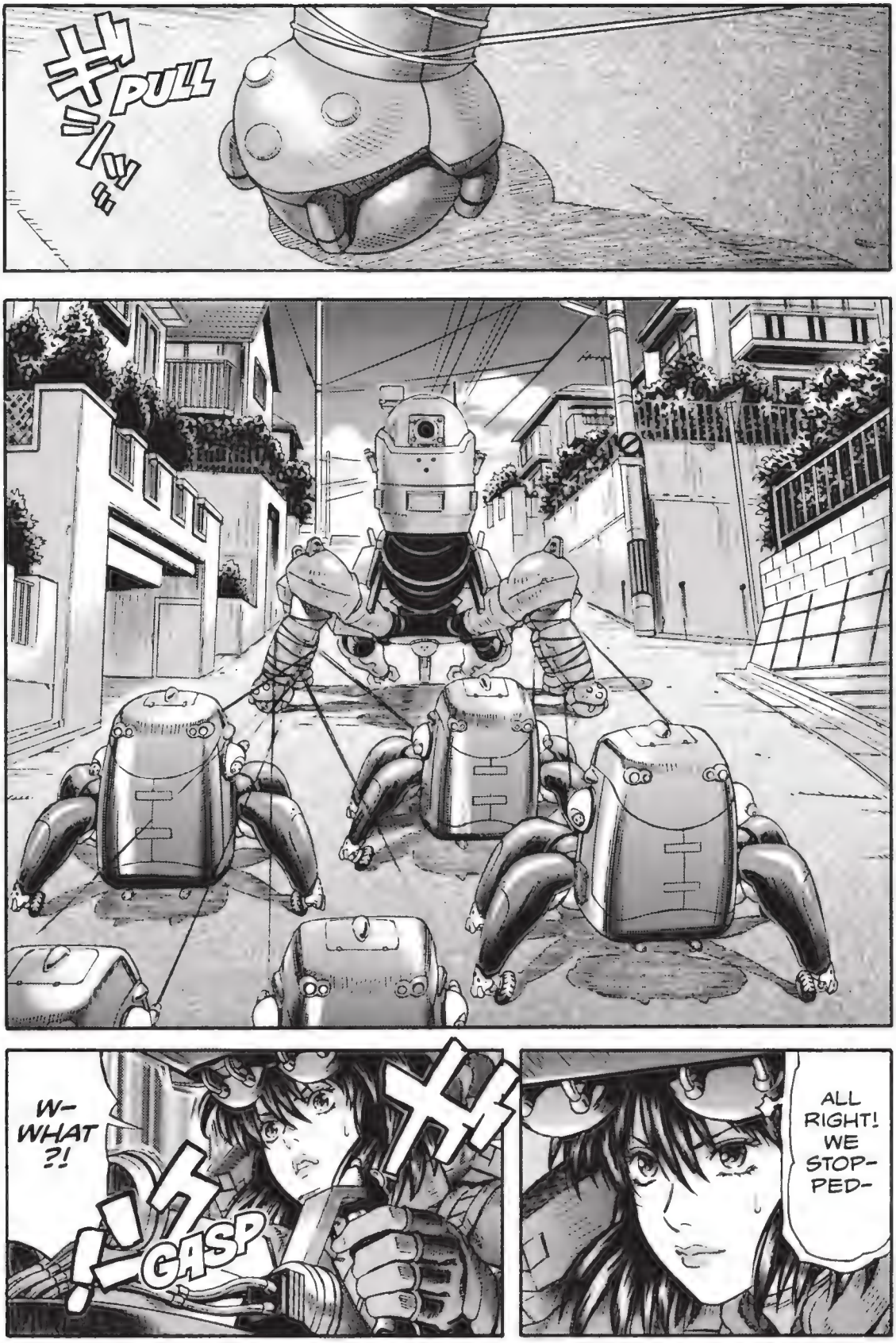
LUH LUH LUH
EMS-025
LIVE
HUH ?
WHAT THE HELL?! GUESS THAT WON'T STOP HIM, EITHER.
A HILL ---- ??
EMS-025
LIVE

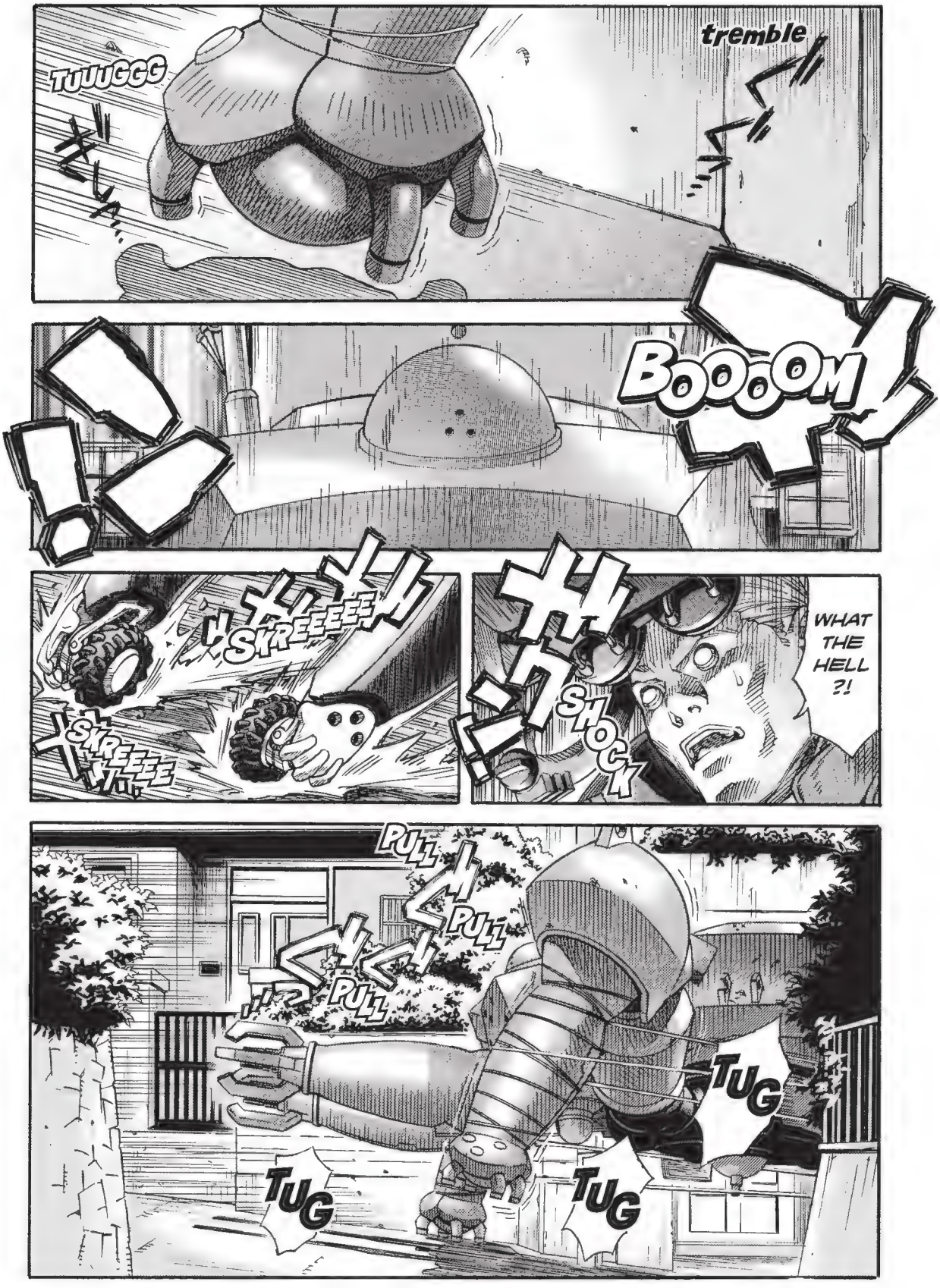
B-
BUMP

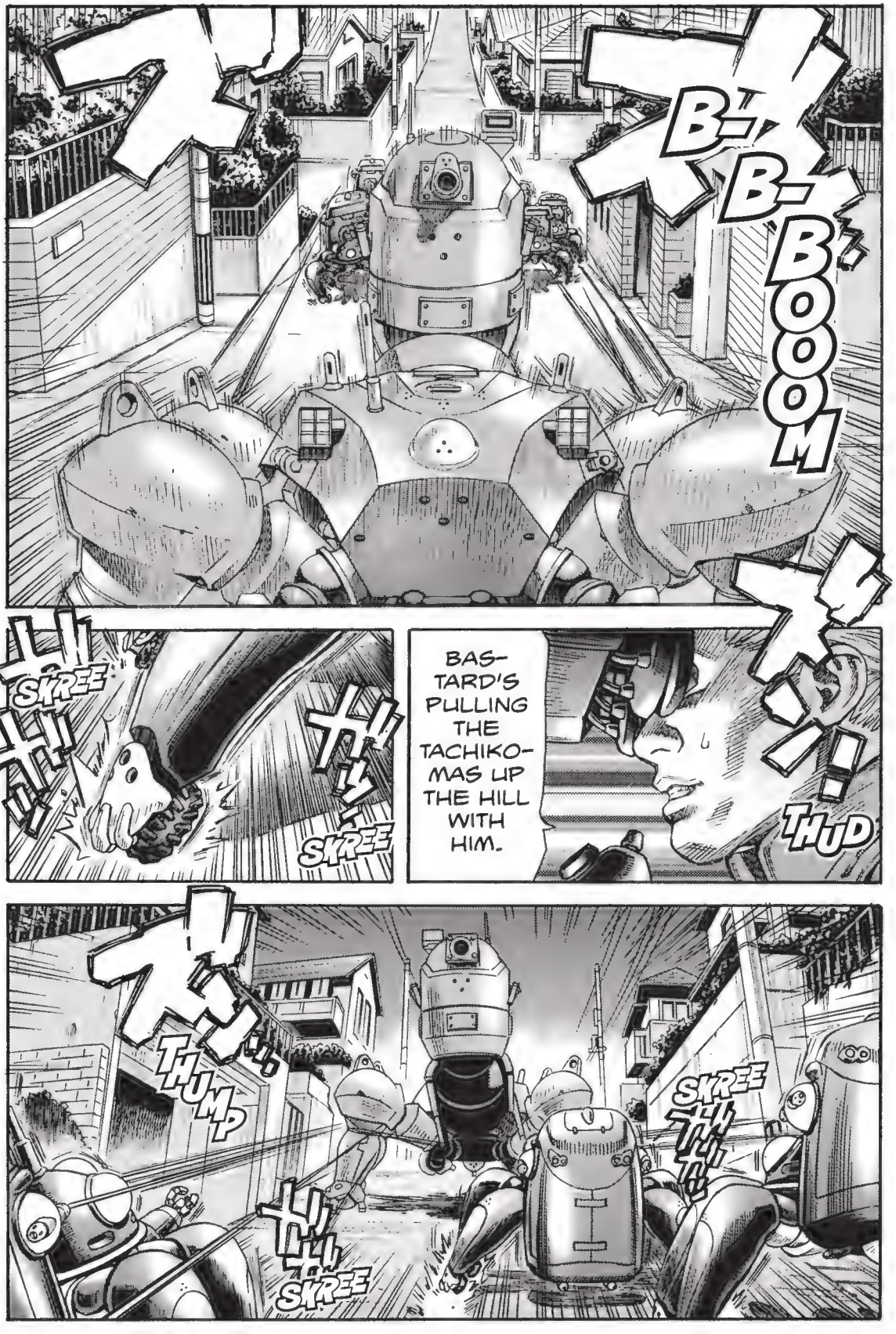
SKREEEEE


SQUEEEEEEE

MAJOR! HILL UP AHEAD !!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE !
B-
B-
SKREEE
SKREEEE
CAN WE STOP IT?!


PULL
W-WHAT?!
GASP
ALL RIGHT! WE STOPPED-


TUUUGGG
tremble
BOOOOM
SKREEEE
SKREEEE
SHOCK
WHAT THE HELL ?!
PULL
PULL
PULL
TUG
TUG
TUG


B-B-BOOOM
SKREE
SKREE
BAS-TARD'S PULLING THE TACHIKO-MAS UP THE HILL WITH HIM.
THUD
THUMP
SKREE
SKREE

KATONK
SPIN
VRRRRR
!!
RE-
LEASE
THE
WIRES
!!

BA-BOOOOOOOOOOM
ROOOOOOOOOOOAR
PSSHHH
spin
TMP
CHING

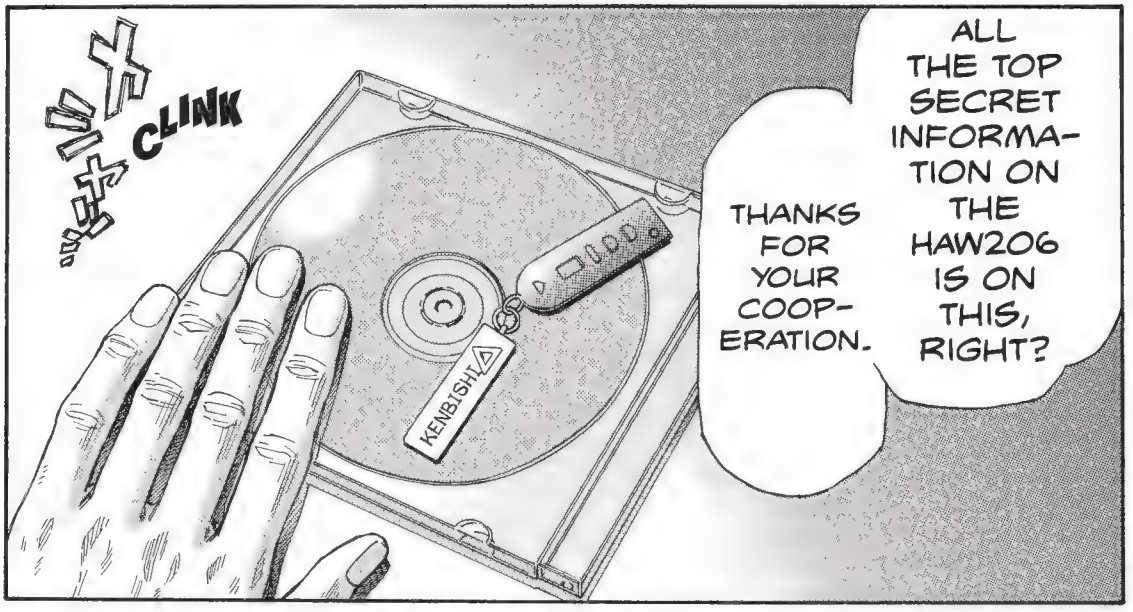
THOMP
FSHH
THUD
PHYS-
ICAL
ATTACKS
WON'T
WORK.
reach
DAMN
IT!
NOW
WHAT?!

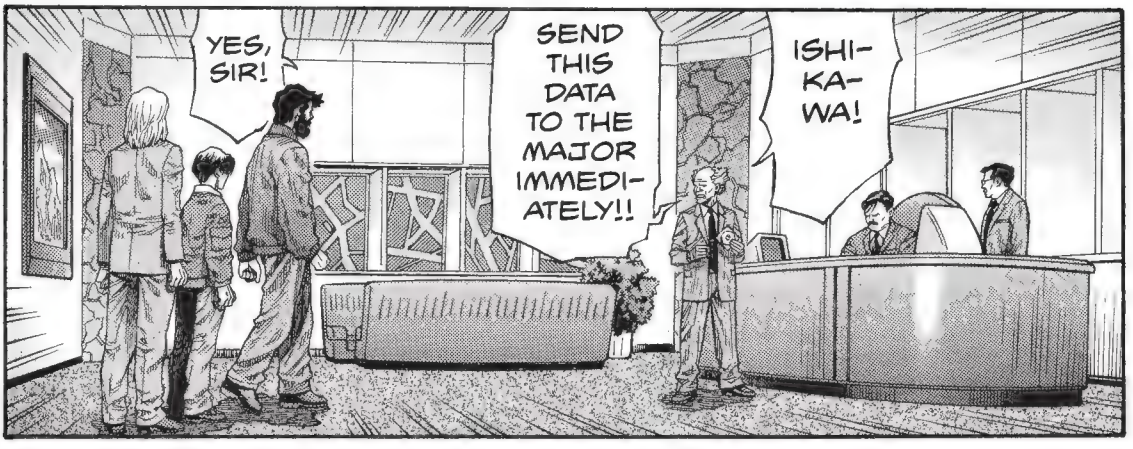
VRRRRR
PSSHH
TUG
TMP

HEY! MAJOR !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GOING TO CONNECT MY BRAIN TO KAGO'S ...
CLENCH
... AND BURN IT OUT !!
PSSH
WHAT ?! MAJOR !!
TMP TMP

THE MILITARY ATTACK BARRIER WILL FRY YOUR BRAIN INSTEAD!!
BAAAAN!!
ARE YOU CRAZY ?!
MAJ-OR!!
COME BACK HERE !!
MA-JOO-OOOR !!
TMP TMP
TMP TMP
#016 / End

#017 Cyberbrain Attack


CLINK
KENBISHI
ALL THE TOP SECRET INFORMATION ON THE HAW206 IS ON THIS, RIGHT?
THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.


YES, SIR!
SEND THIS DATA TO THE MAJOR IMMEDIATELY!!
ISHIKAWA!

THAT'S ---

WHAT'S THIS KEY?
CHING

IF YOU USE THOSE WEAPONS, YOU CAN FREEZE THE HAW206 IN ITS TRACKS!
--- THE KEY TO A WARE-HOUSE CONTAINING ANTI-MULTIPED TANK WEAPONRY.
WAIT ---
TMP
TMP
TMP
WAIT ---
V-VERY WELL ---
WHOOSH
LET'S HURRY TO THE WARE-HOUSE!

I SAID, WAIT!!!
TMP
STOP, ŌBA!!
JUST LET HIM GET HIS RE-VENGE!!
HIS PARENTS DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HIM!!

AND ---
AND ---
AND ---
NO ONE ELSE WILL GET HURT, ANY-WAY ---
THE-RE'S NO WAY ---
KAGO SWORE IT TO ME!!

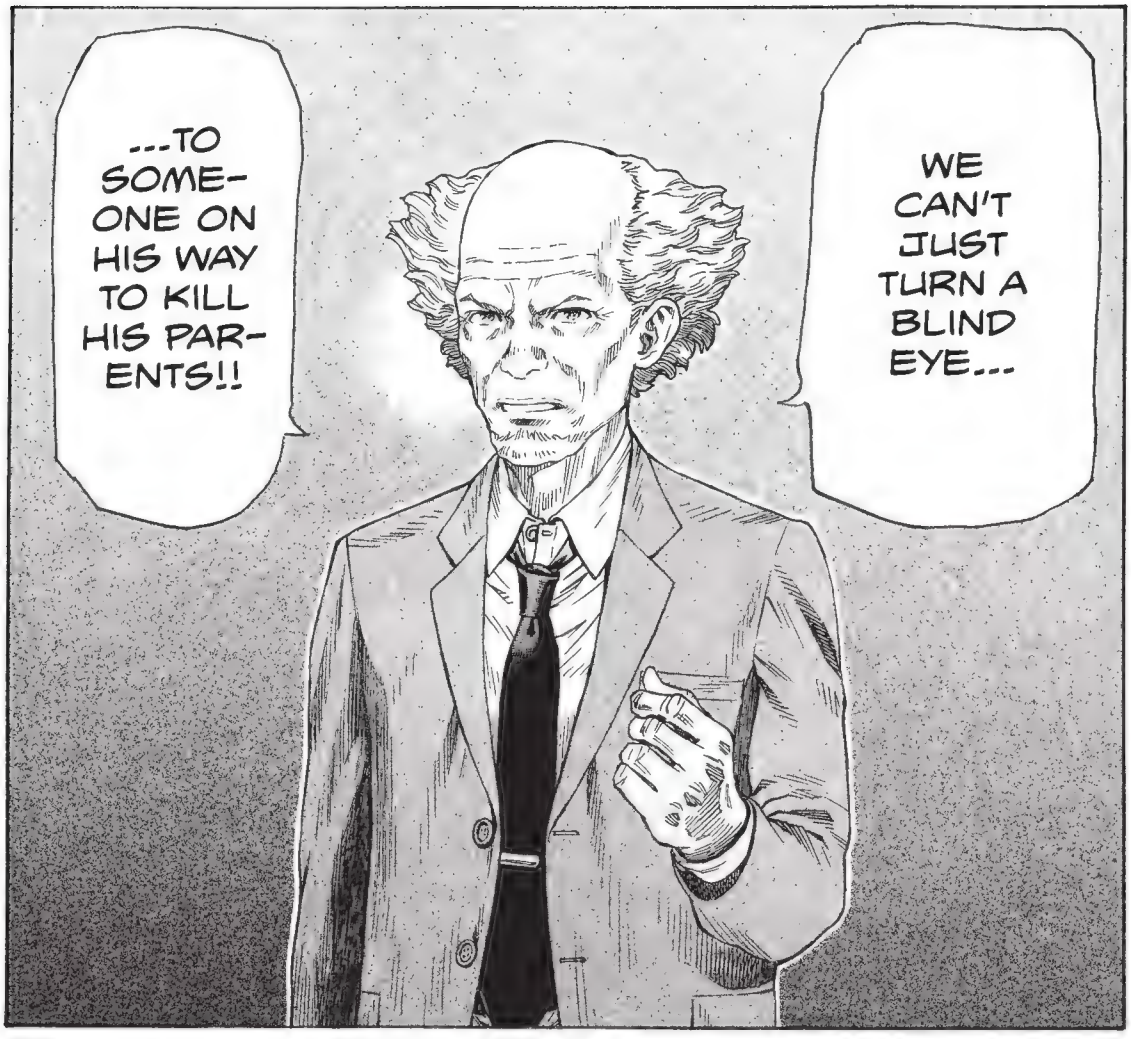
HE'D NEVER HARM AN INNO-CENT PERSON ...
I JUST KNOW IT!!
I'M BEG-GING YOU!!
SO PLEASE ...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE LET THE HAW206... LET KAGO GO!!

PLEASE

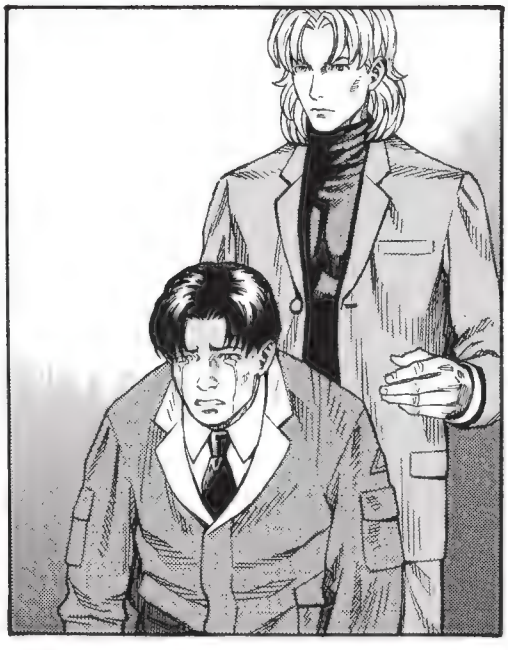
PLEASE

TUG
しゅるっ
I
BELIEVE
YOU

PULL
OUR
JOB IS
TO STOP
CATASTRO-
PHES
BEFORE
THEY
HAPPEN.
BUT


WE CAN'T JUST TURN A BLIND EYE...
...TO SOME-ONE ON HIS WAY TO KILL HIS PAR-ENTS!!

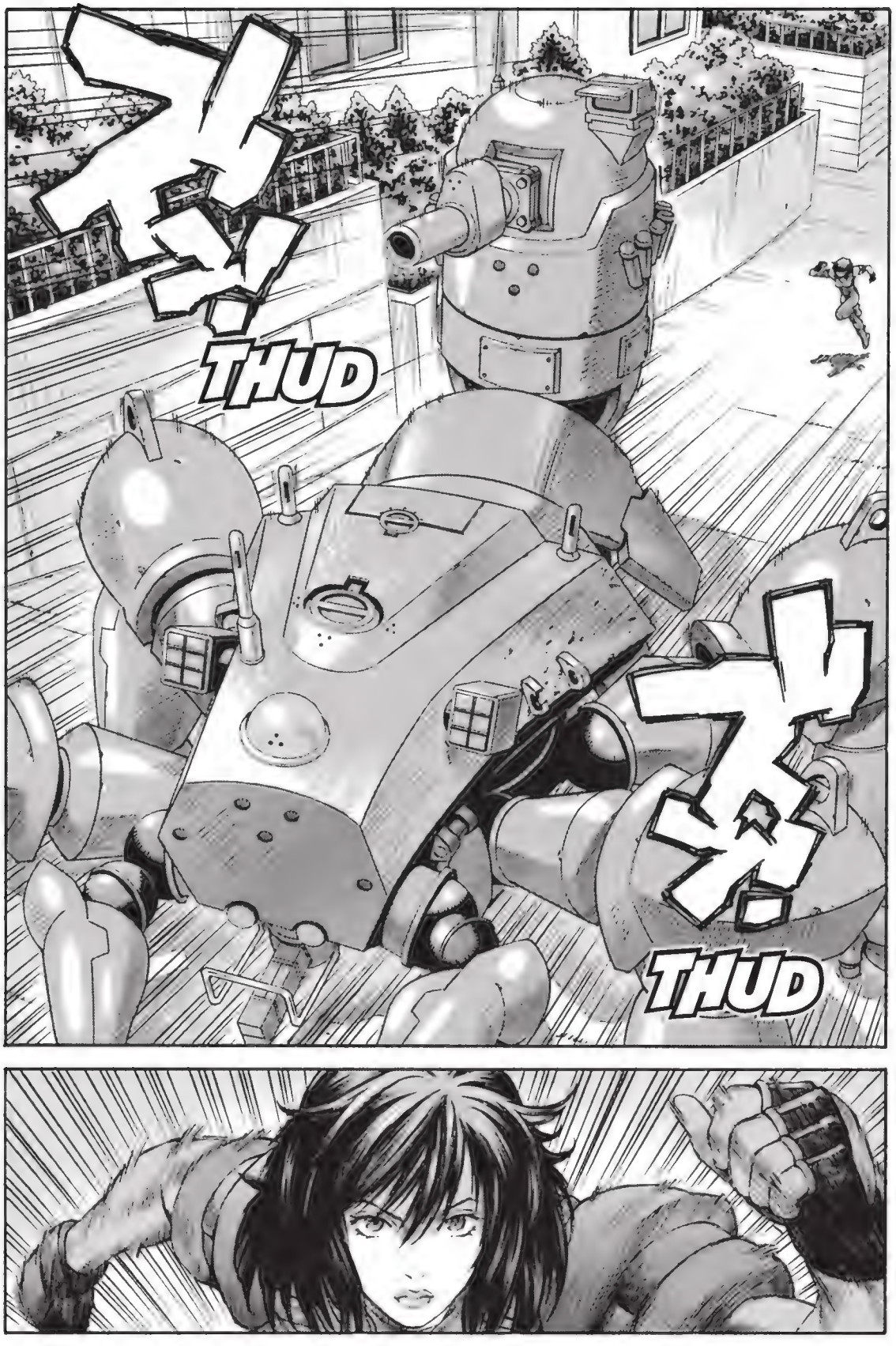
LET'S GO!
Y- YES, SIR!
TMP



LET'S GO, ŌBA ...
I'M SORRY ...
KAGO ...
THUD
I'M SO SORRY...
THUD
THUD
STOP, MAJOR !!!

ARE YOU CRAZY?!
PSSH
TMP TMP
YOU CAN'T DIRECTLY LINK TO KAGO'S BRAIN TO FRY IT!!
TMP TMP
HE HAS DEF-ENSES AGAINST THAT!!
BAAAAN
YOUR BRAIN'LL BE THE ONE THAT GETS FRIED!

TMP TMP
MAJOR !!
COME BACK !!
MAJOR !!
THUD THUD
THUD THUD
TCH!!
VRRRR
PSSHH
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LINK UP ANYWAY!


THUD
THUD

WHOOSH
TMP
OOSSSH
FWOOOOOSH

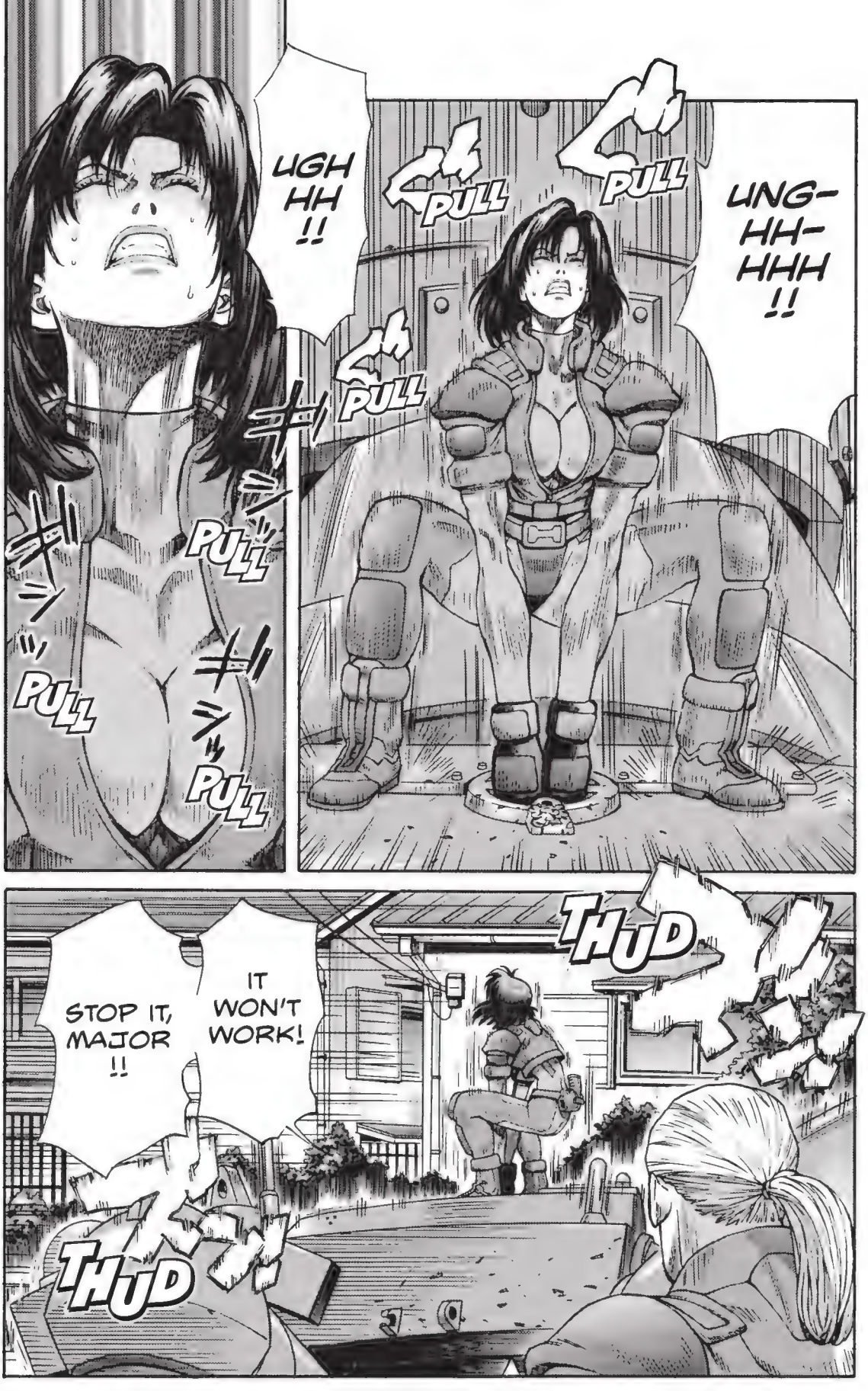
THUUMP
THUD
THUD

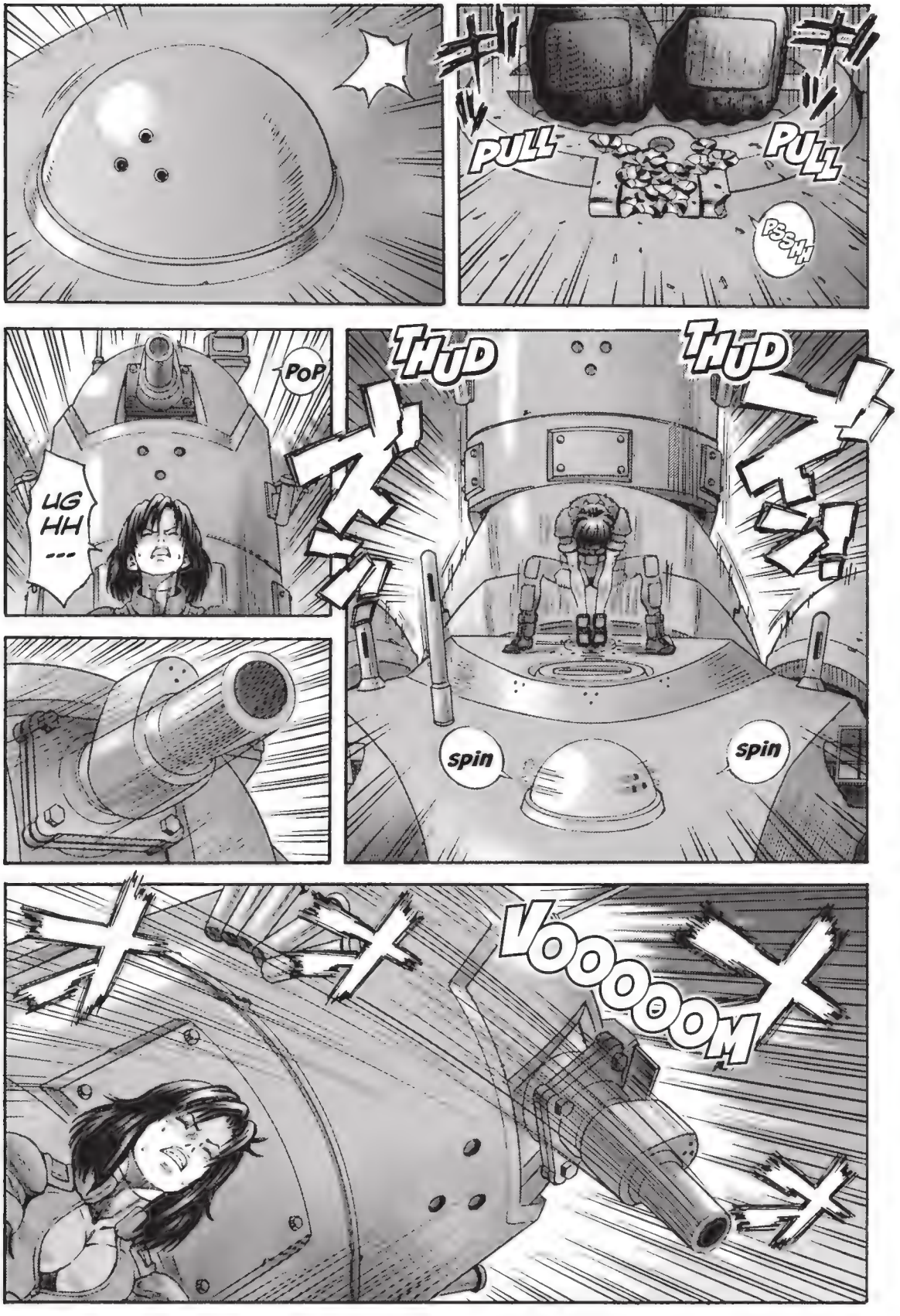
SMACK
DAMN IT!!
THUD
I NEED TO OPEN THIS HATCH ...
... SO I CAN BURN OUT KAGO'S BRAIN.
THUD
THUD
THUD!

SKREE
SKREE
SKREEEE
THUD
THUD
SKREEE
MAJOR! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!
GET DOWN !!
MAJOR !!
THUD
CHING
THUD

RAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
RAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
PTOON
PTOON
PTOON
PTOON
RAT
TAT
TAT
CHING
RAT
TAT
TAT
TAT

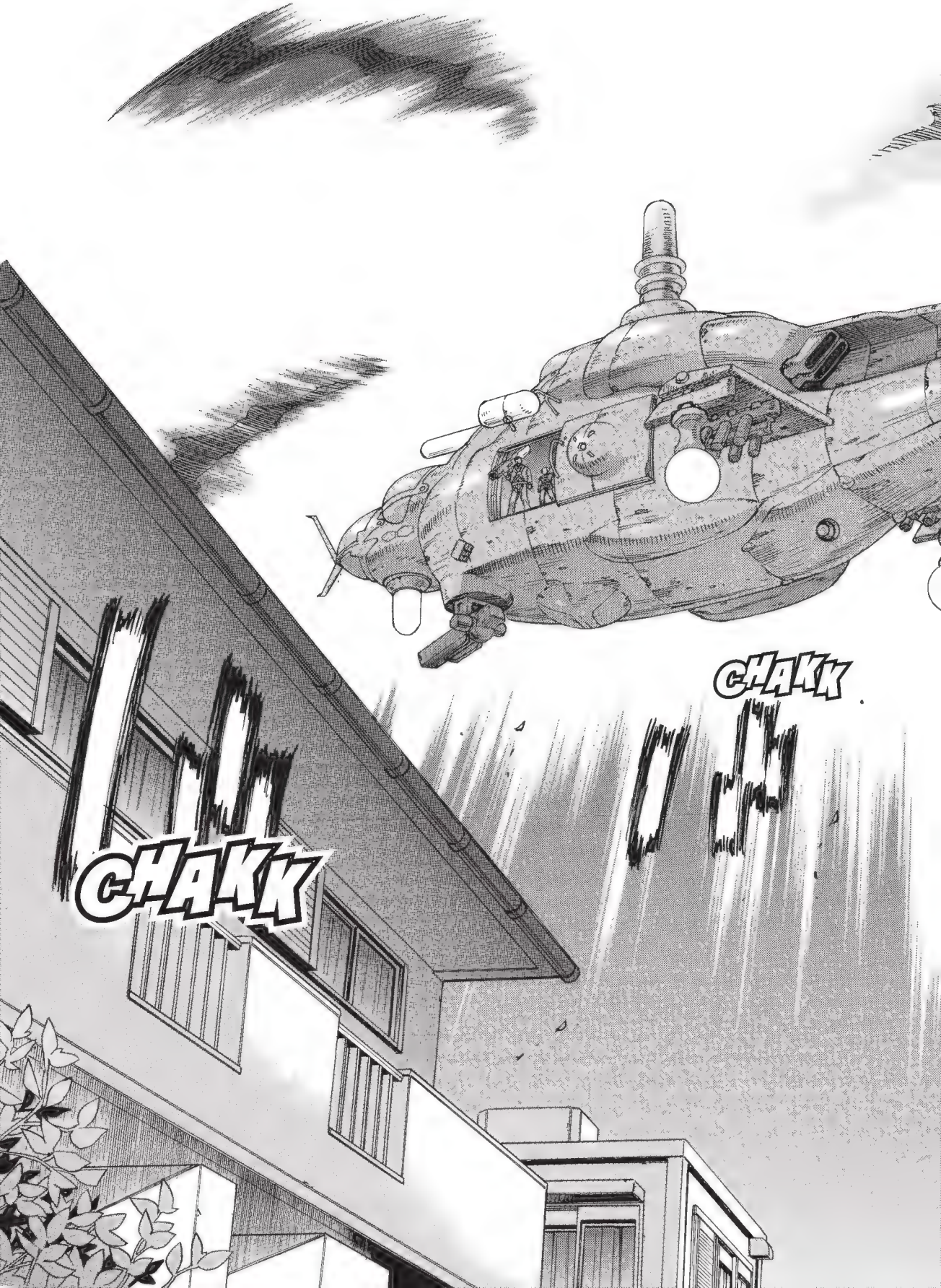
CHING
SMACK
UGG GH!
GRAB
TMP


UGH HH !!
PULL
PULL
UNG- HH- HHH !!
PULL
PULL
PULL
PULL
THUD
IT WON'T WORK!
STOP IT, MAJOR !!
THUD


PULL
PULL
PSSHH
POP
UGHH---
THUD
THUD
spin
spin
VOOOOOM

HE'S GONNA SHOOT YOU!
BE-HIND YOU!!
MAJ-OR!
PA-SHOOOOON
rustle
MA-
---!!
MAJ-OR!!
PASHOON
PASHOON
THUD

CHAKK
CHAKK

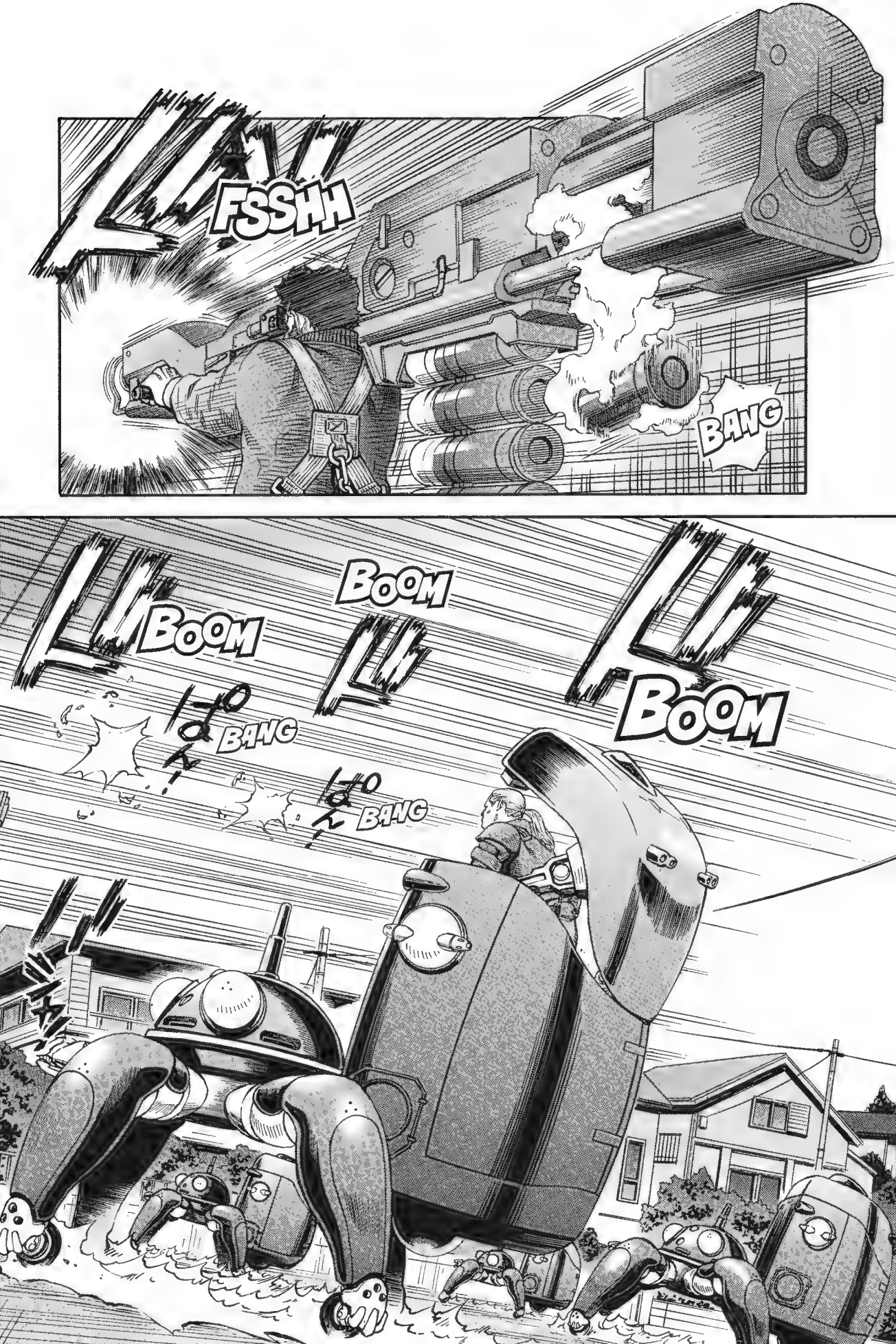

CHAKK
CHAKK

CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK

GRIP
ISHI-KAWA ?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
SWISSSH
MAJOR! ISHI-KAWA'S GOT SOME-THING!
GET OFF THE-RE!
---!?
THUD

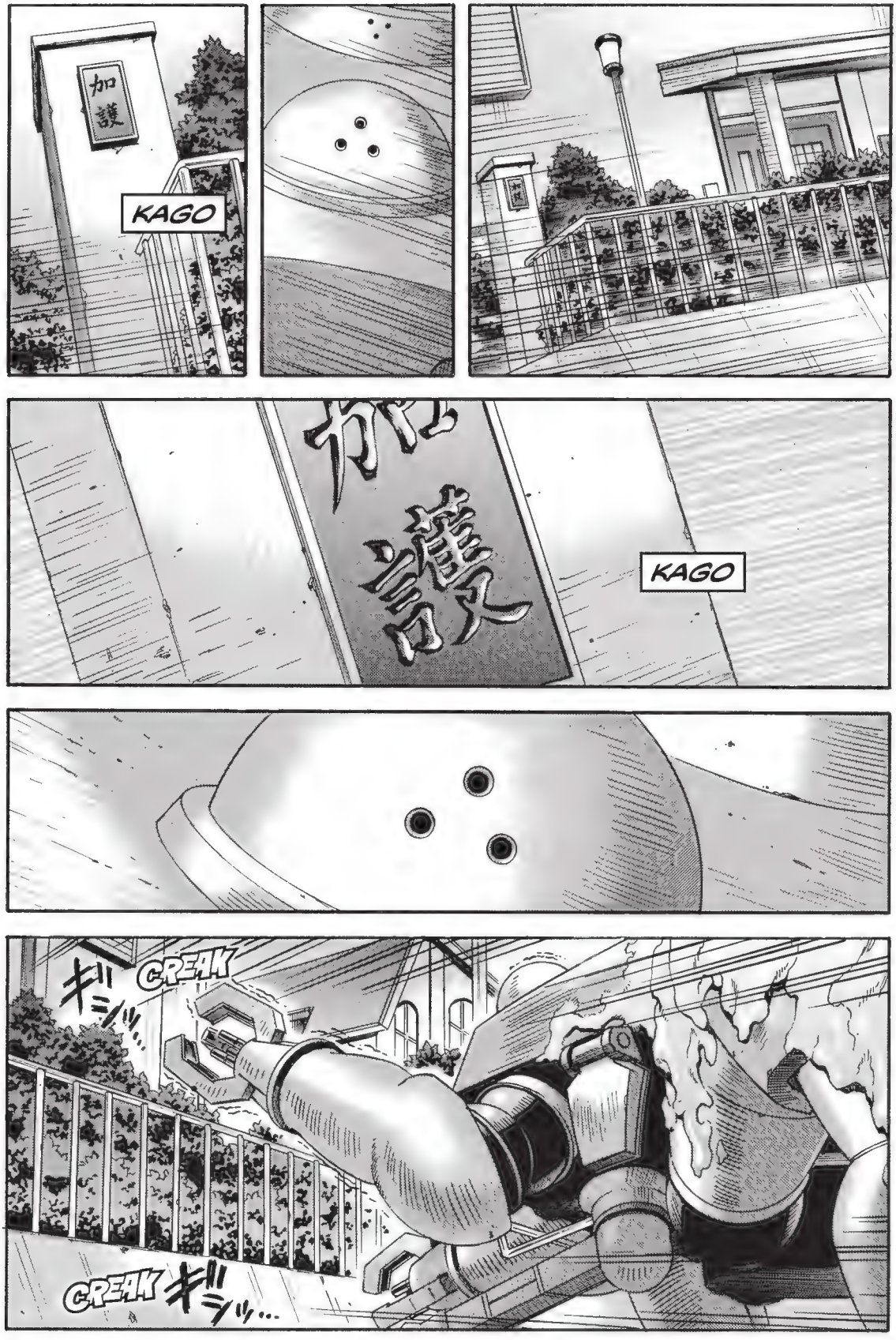
VRRRR
POWWWWWW
FSSSSSHHHHHH

KRSSSSSHHH
!?
BANG
BOOOOM
THIS IS THE ANTI-TANK WEAP-ONRY ?
BANG
PSSSHHH
FSSSSSHH


FSSHH
BANG
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BANG
BANG

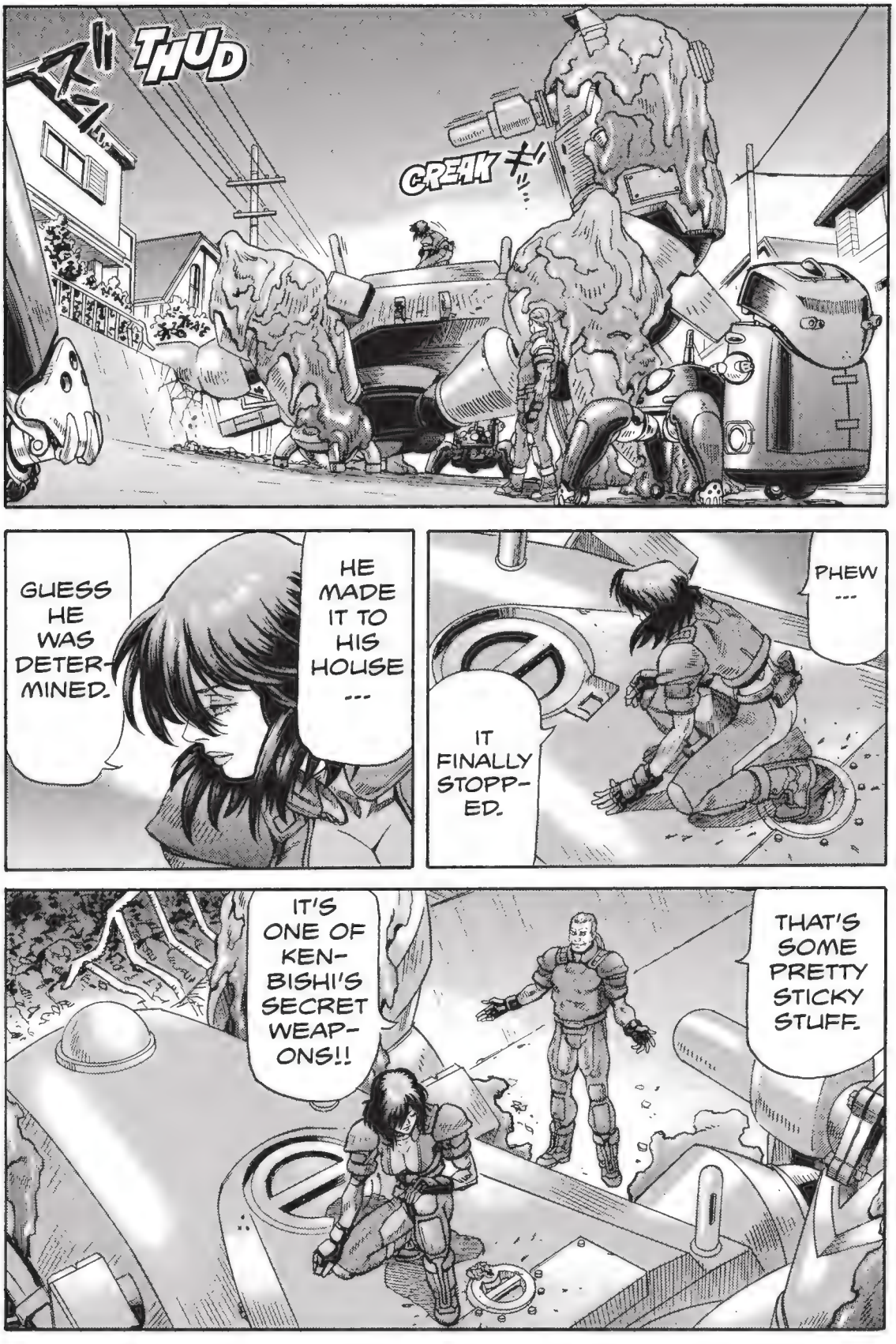
BOOM
ST OO OO OP !!
BOOM
BOOM
KRSSH
BOOM
BOOM
FSSSSSHH

キシ
SQUEAK
キシ
SQUEAK
IT STILL WON'T STOP?!
DA-MN IT!
!
THUD
ドカ
THUMP

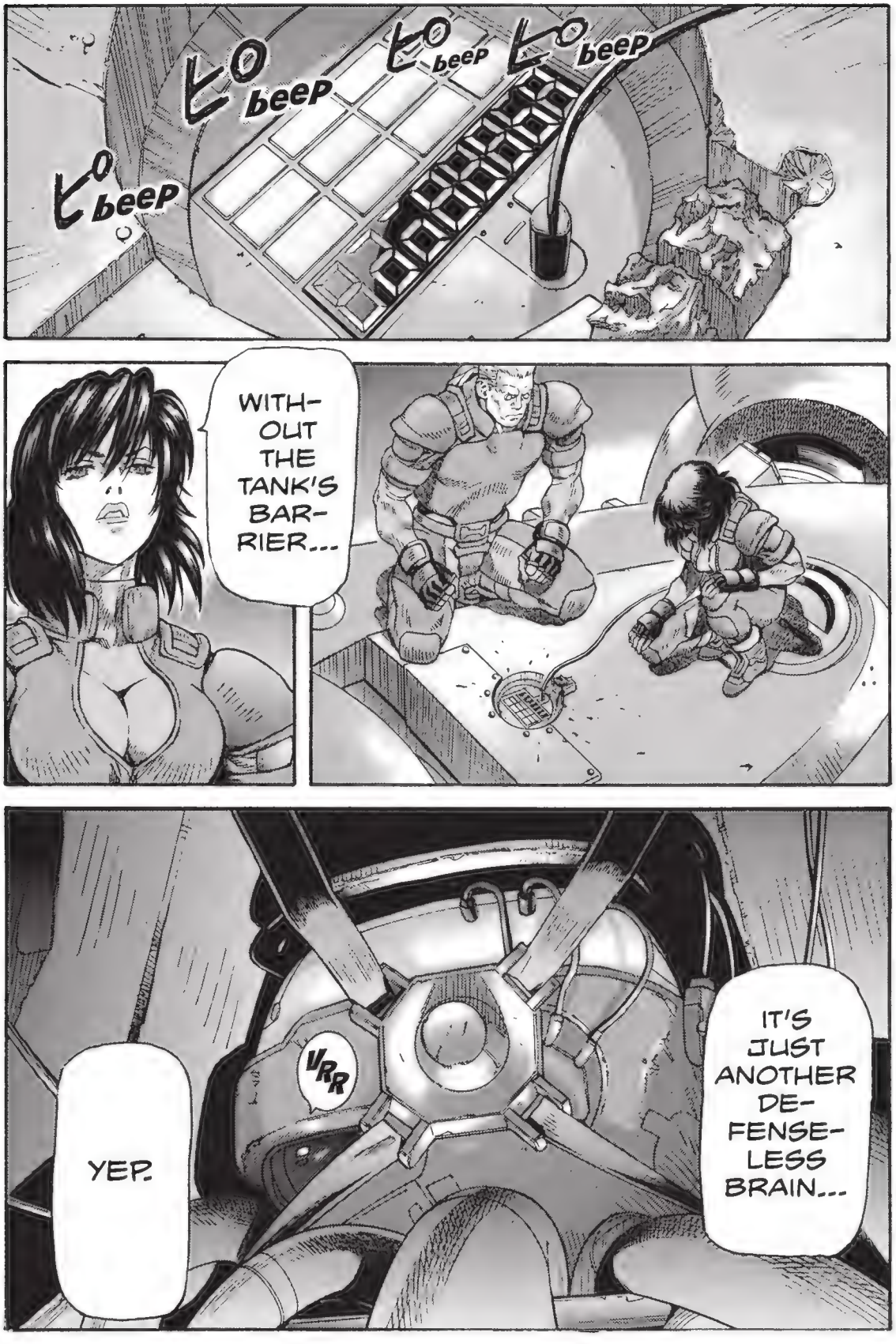

加護
KAGO
加護
KAGO
キィィッ...
CREAK
CREAK
キィィッ...

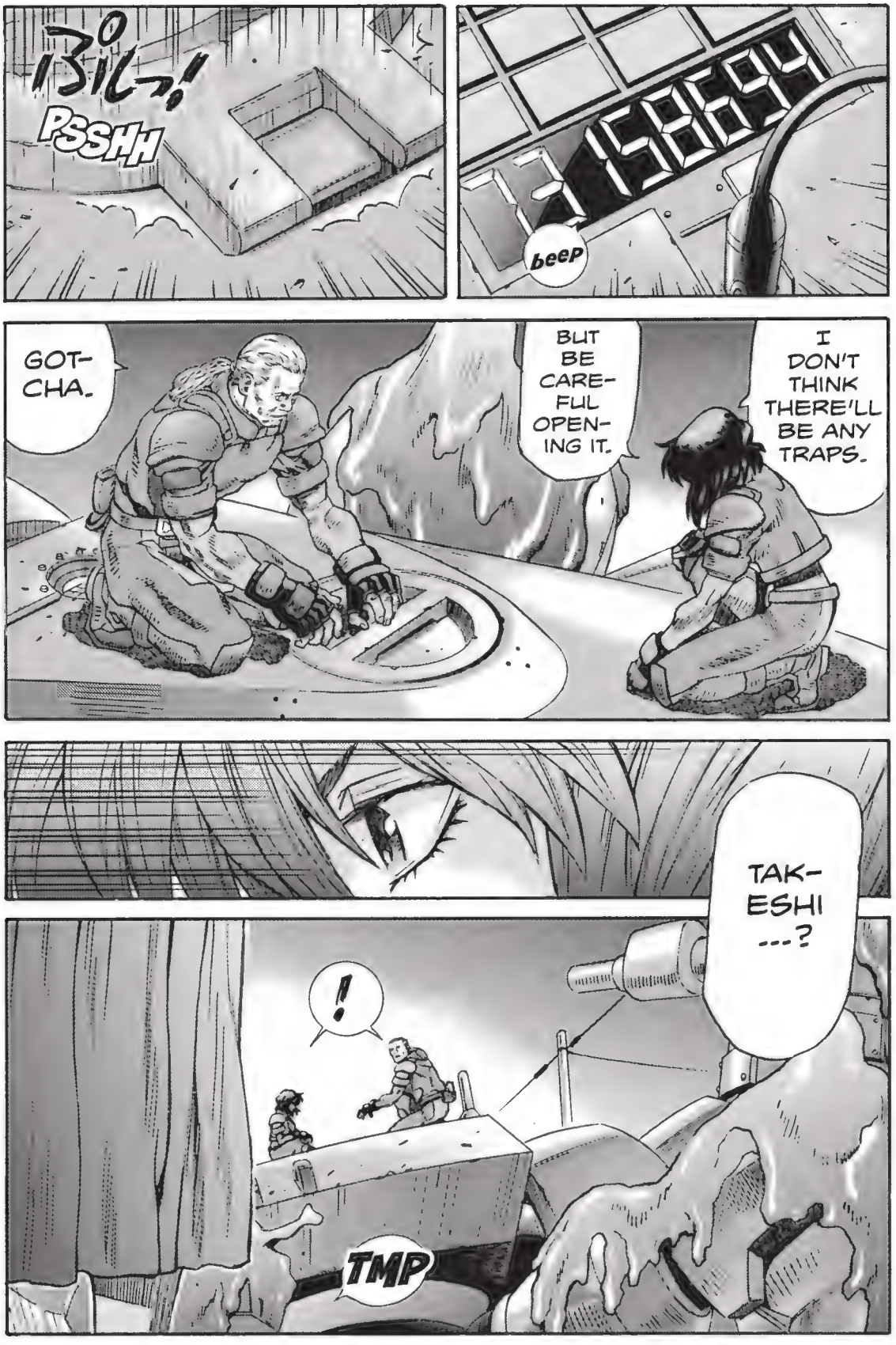
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
THUD
THUD
かっ!
POP
CRAAASSSHH
CRACK
CRAACCK

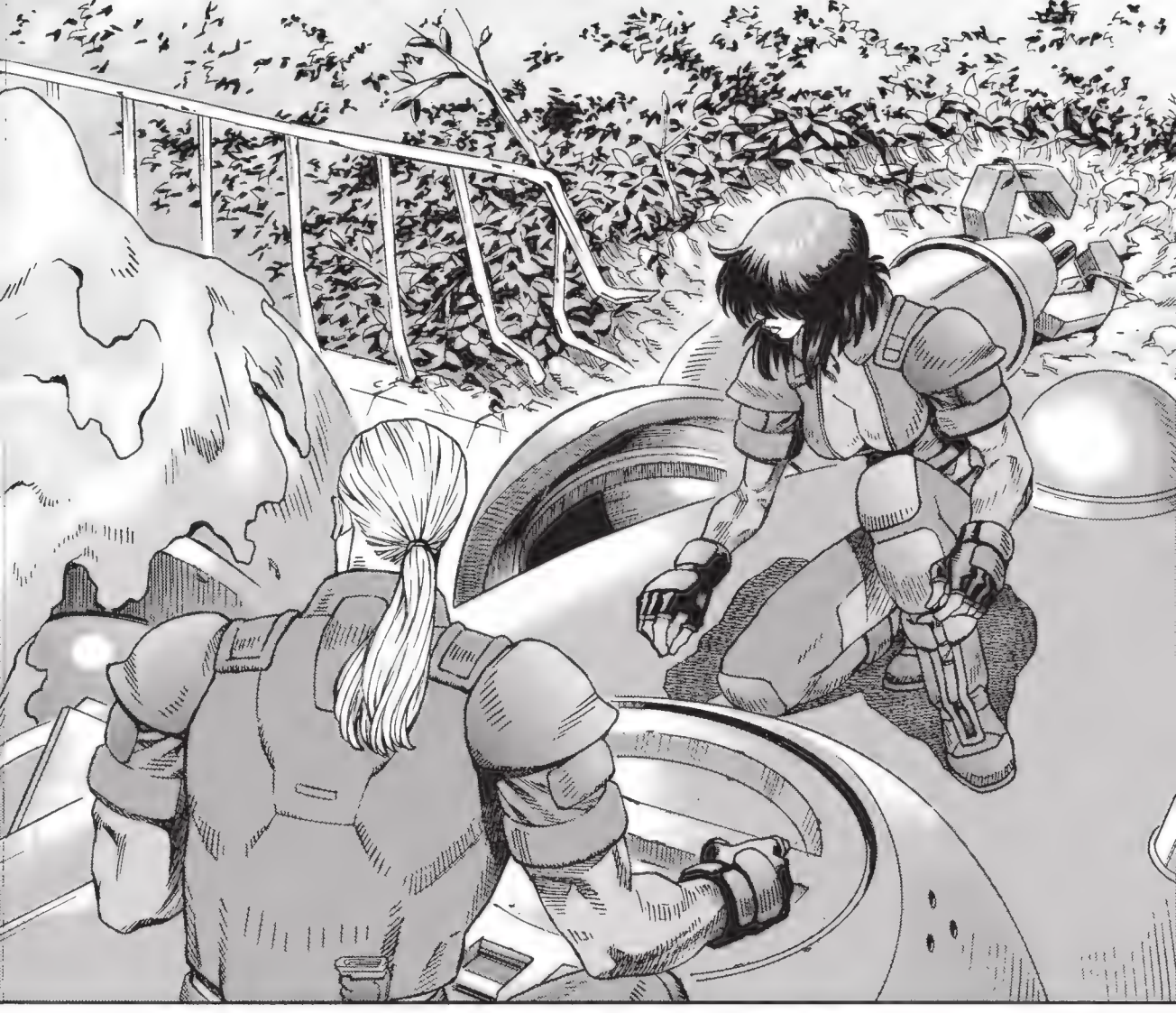
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THIS IS FRICKIN' RIDICU-LOUS!
HE'S GONNA CRASH RIGHT INTO HIS OWN HOUSE!!
CRAAACK
SNAP
CREAK
CREAK
THUD
THUD
CRUUUSH
CRUUUSH
SNAAAAAAP

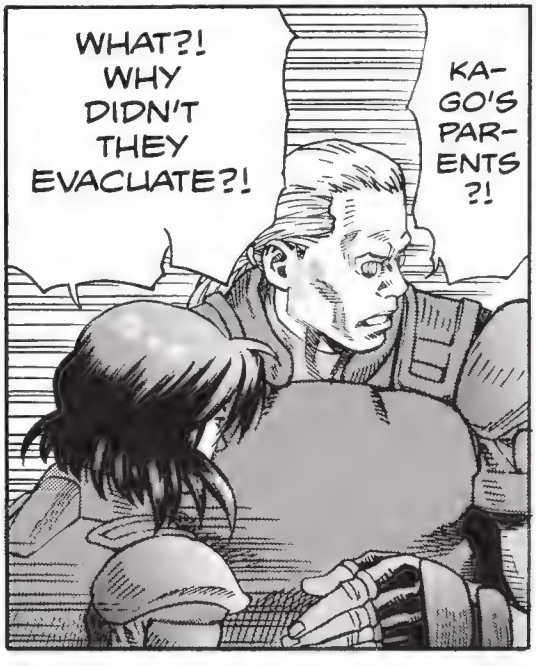

THUD
CREAK
HE MADE IT TO HIS HOUSE ---
GUESS HE WAS DETER-MINED.
PHEW ---
IT FINALLY STOPP-ED.
IT'S ONE OF KEN-BISHI'S SECRET WEAP-ONS!!
THAT'S SOME PRETTY STICKY STUFF.

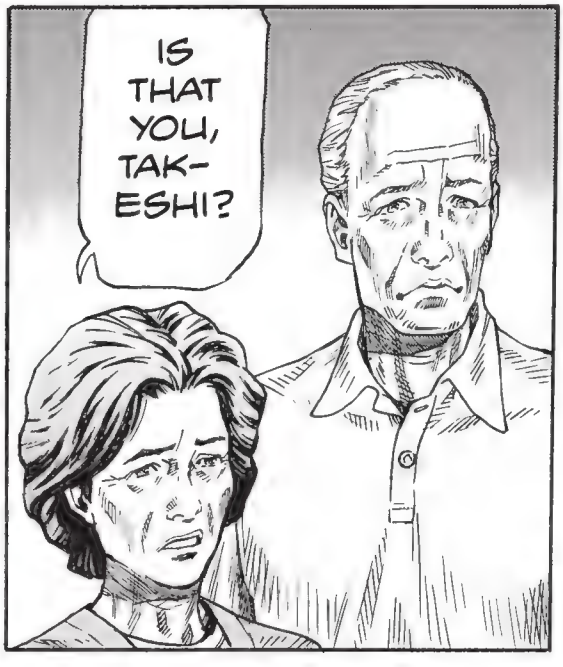
CHING
chakk
chakk
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T THEY GIVE IT TO US SOONER?!
I NEED TO OPEN THE HATCH SO I CAN REMOVE KAGO'S BRAIN!
CH-IEF!
TELL ME THE CIPHER CODE TO DISABLE THE TANK'S ATTACK BARRIER!
731
58
694
---
chakk
chakk
ROGER!

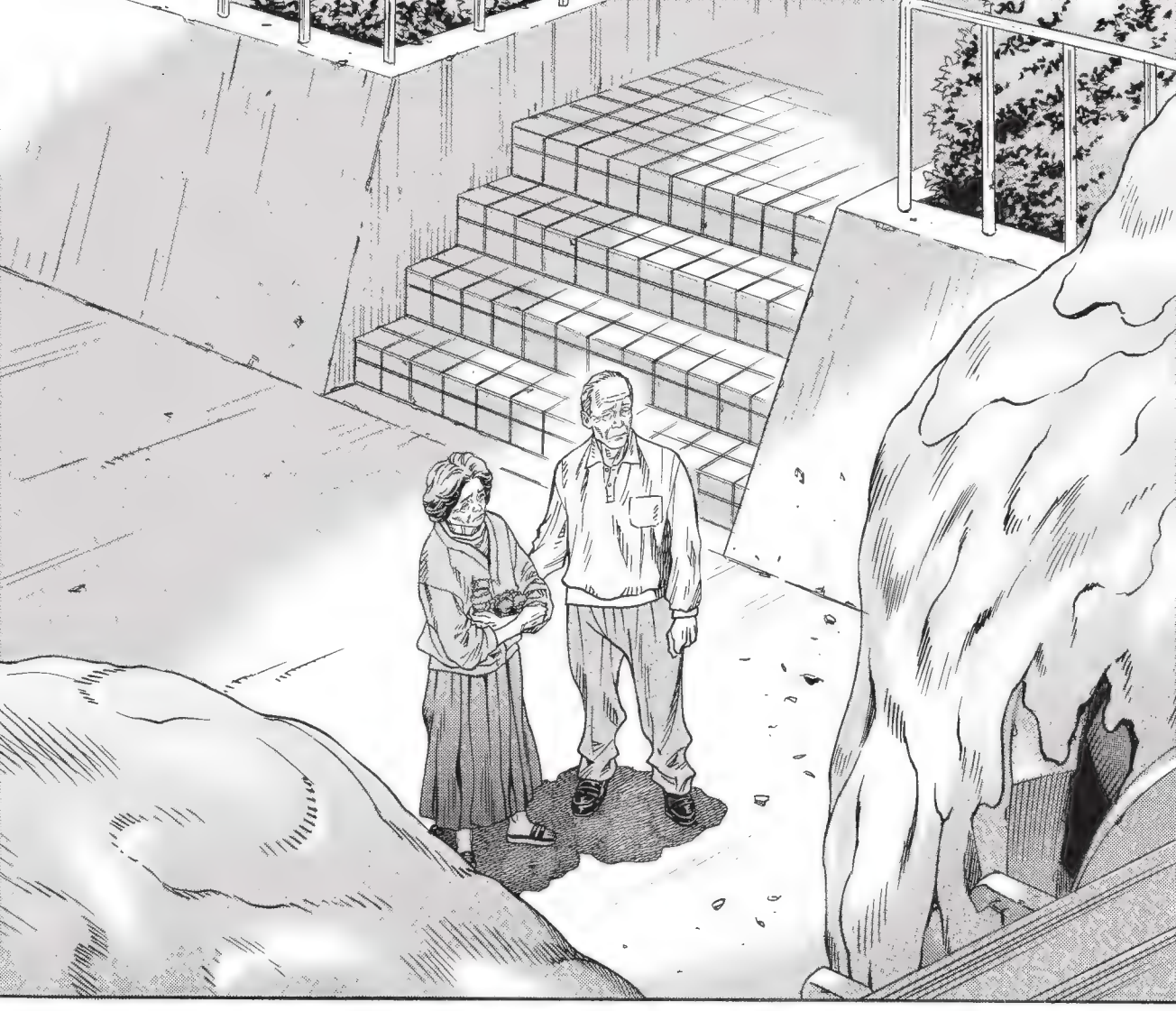

beeP
beeP
beeP
beeP
WITH-OUT THE TANK'S BAR-RIER...
URR
YEP.
IT'S JUST ANOTHER DE-FENSE-LESS BRAIN...

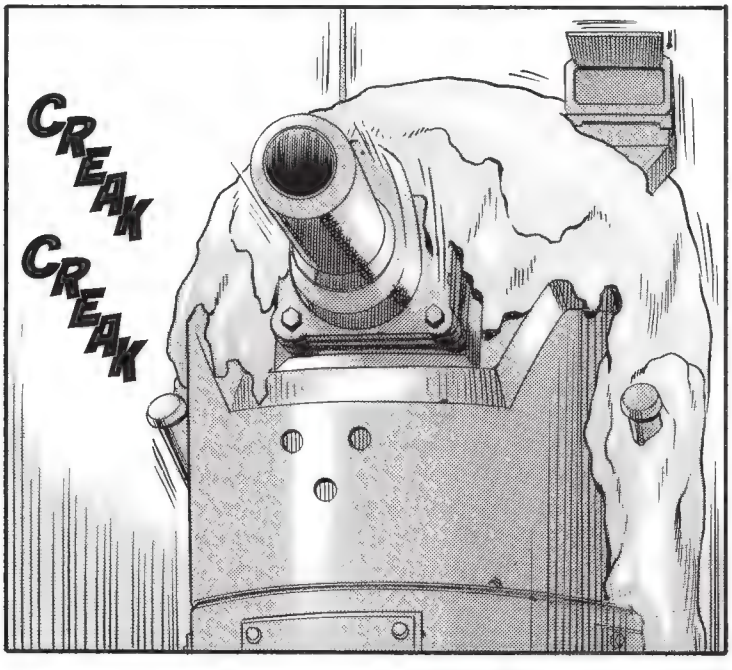

PSSHH
beep
GOT-CHA.
BUT BE CARE-FUL OPEN-ING IT.
I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY TRAPS.
TAK-ESHI ---?
!
TMP

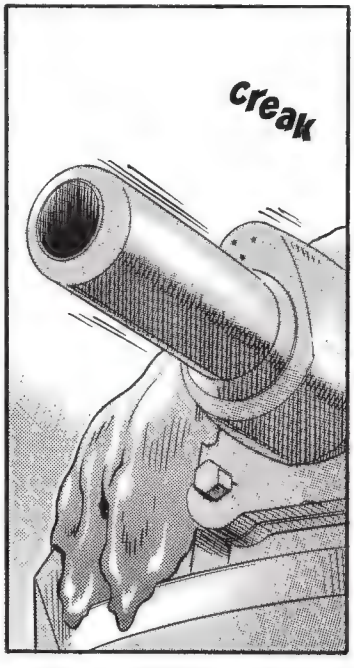



WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T THEY EVACUATE?!
KA-GO'S PAR-ENTS ?!


IS THAT YOU, TAK-ESHI?




CREAK
CREAK


creak

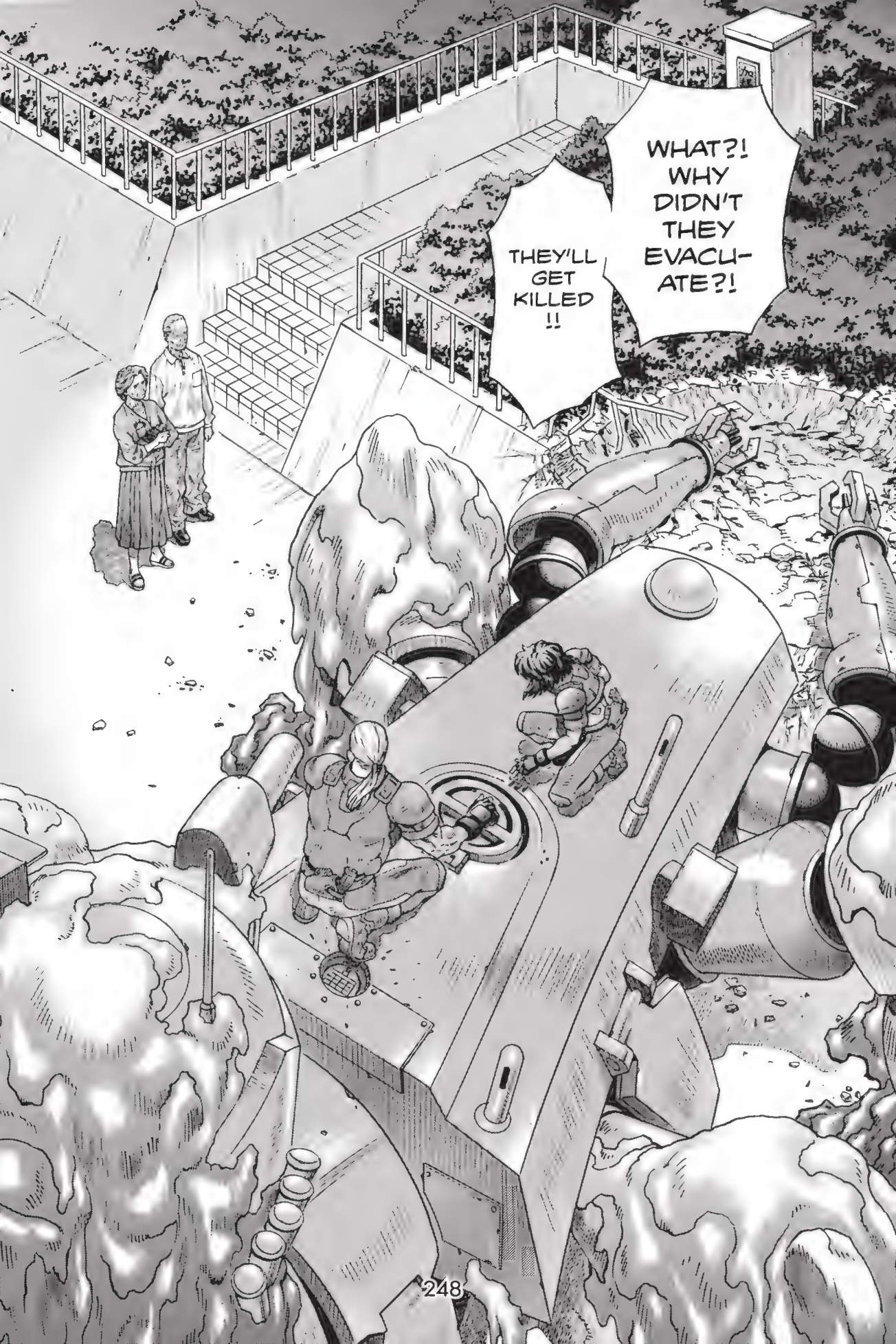
IT'S YOU ISN'T IT, TAK-ESHI?
RUN AWAY!
IT'LL KILL YOU!!
KLNK
RUN AWA-AAAY!!

#017 End

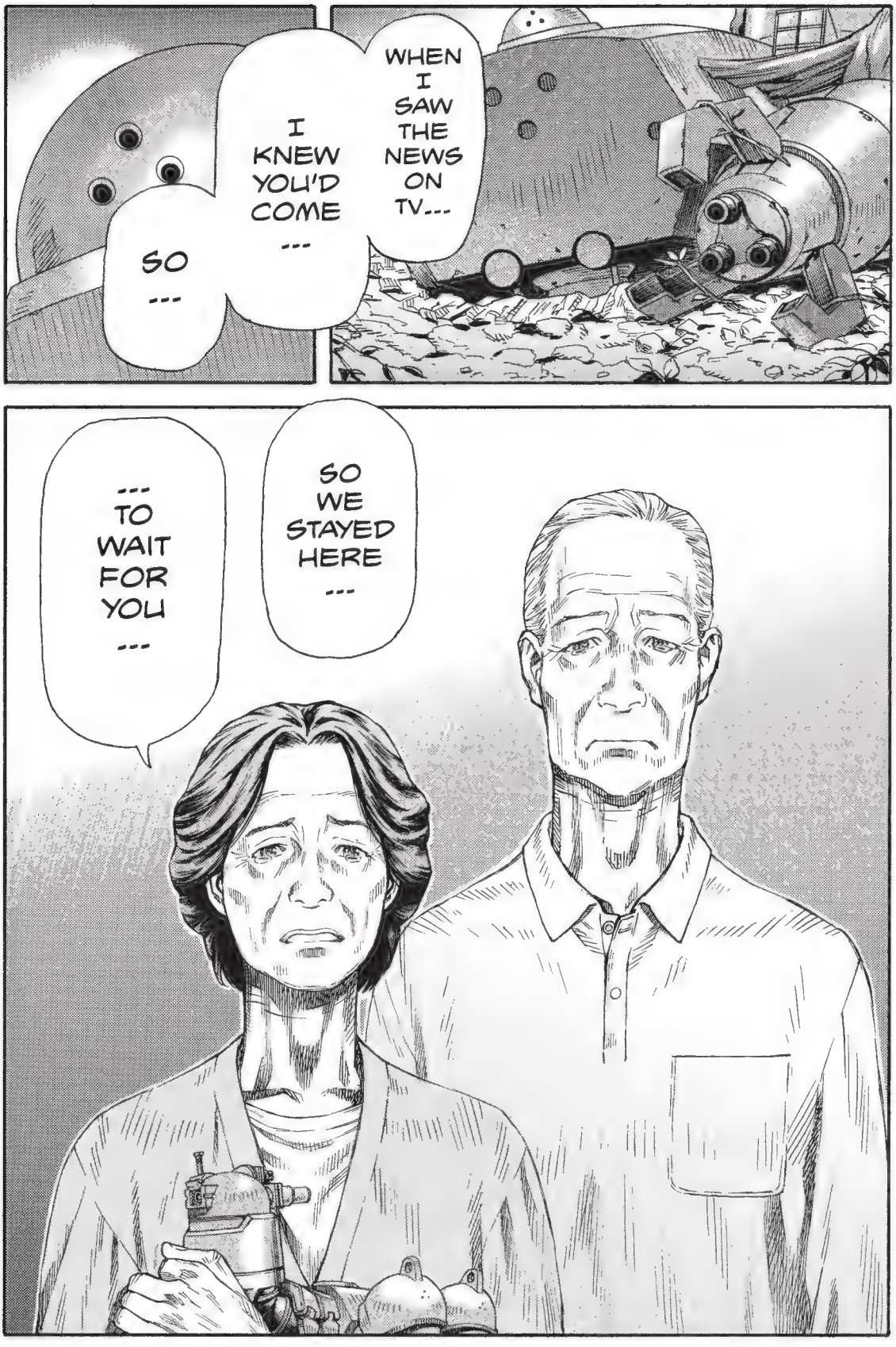
#018 Last Feeling

WE FINALLY STOP-PED HIM...
BUT IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS TO LINK INTO HIS BRAIN NOW! THERE MIGHT BE BOOBY TRAPS LEFT BEHIND!
I'M OPENING THIS HATCH AND GETTING KAGO'S BRAIN.
I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY TRAPS, BUT BE CAREFUL JUST IN CASE.
GOT-CHA.

TAK-
ESHI
---?
!
TMP
K-
KAGO'S
PAR-
ENTS
?!


WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T THEY EVACU-ATE?!
THEY'LL GET KILLED !!

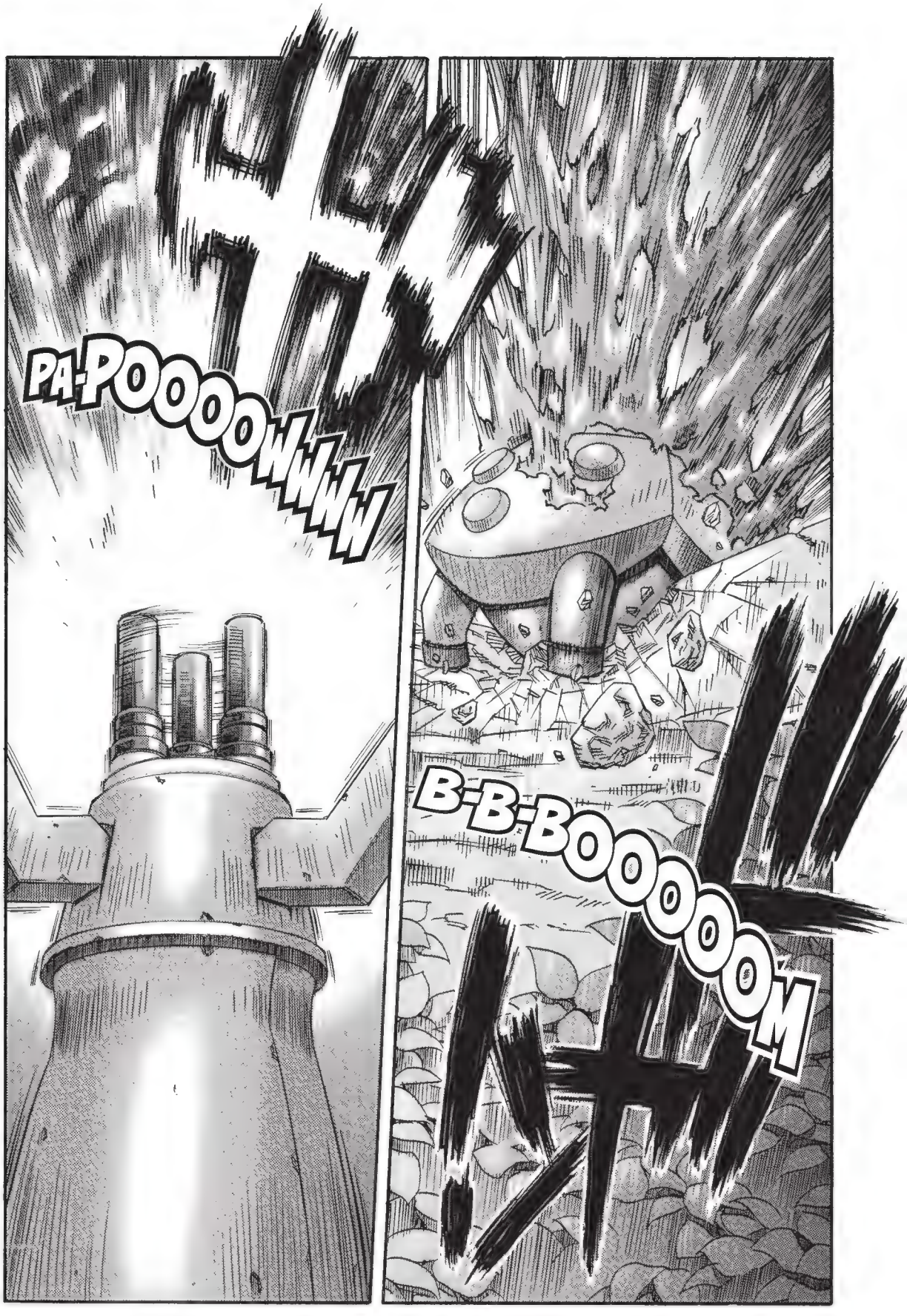
CREAAAAK
CLINK
IT IS YOU, TAKESHI ---
I KNEW IT ---
HE'S AFTER THE TWO OF YOU!
RUN AWAY!


WHEN I SAW THE NEWS ON TV...
I KNEW YOU'D COME ...
SO ...
SO WE STAYED HERE ...
... TO WAIT FOR YOU ...

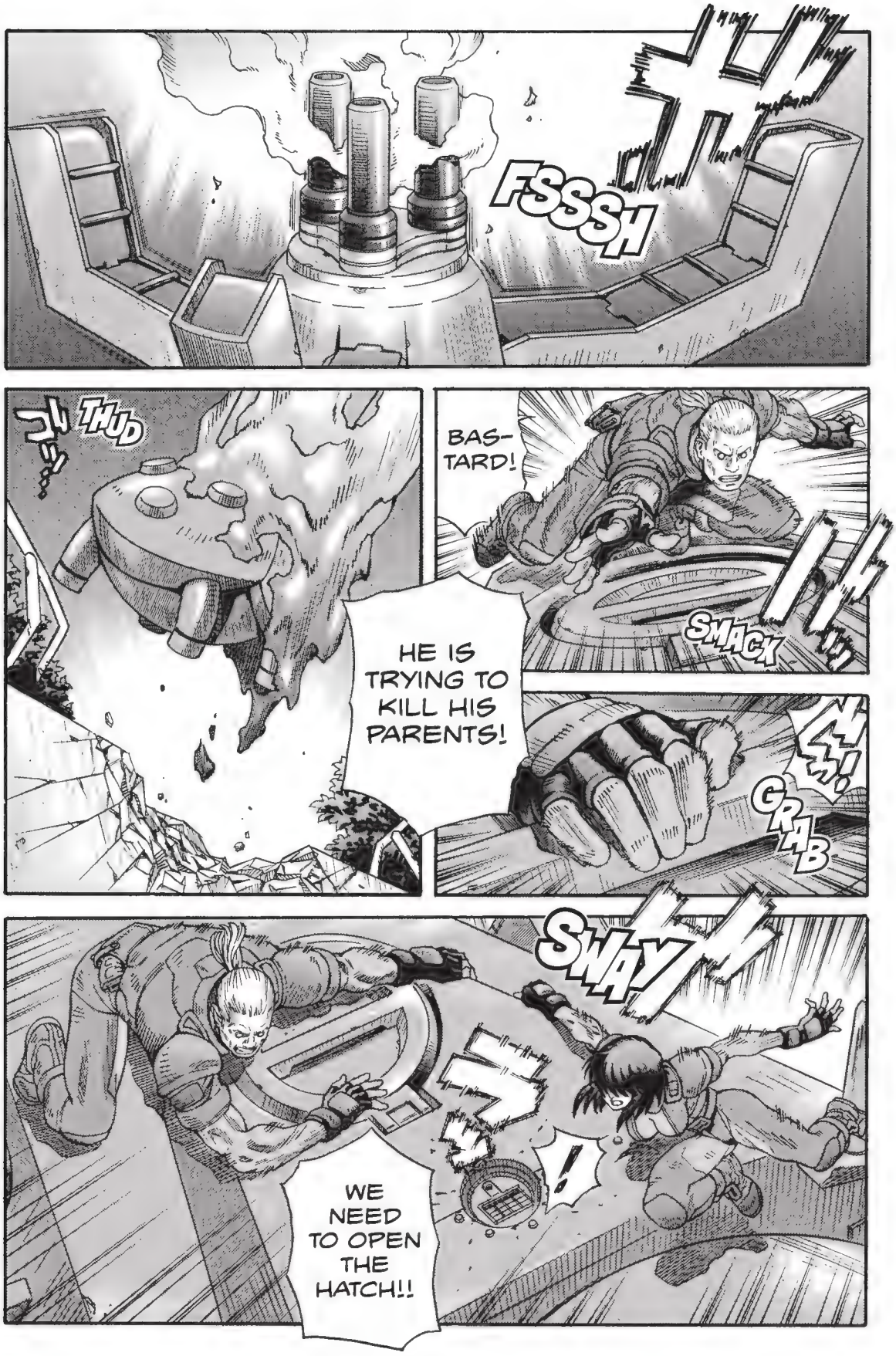
spin
spin
twitch
CREAK
BANG
WE NEED TO GET KAGO'S BRAIN FAST!!
DAMN IT! HE'S GONNA GO CRAZY!!

GASP
UG-HH!
THUMP
THUMP
THUD
WE NEED TO GET HIS BRAIN AWAY FROM THIS TANK!!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
AA-HH !!
CHING
HUR-RY!
DA-MN IT!!


PA-POOOOWWWW
B-B-BOOOOOM

POOWWWWWWWW

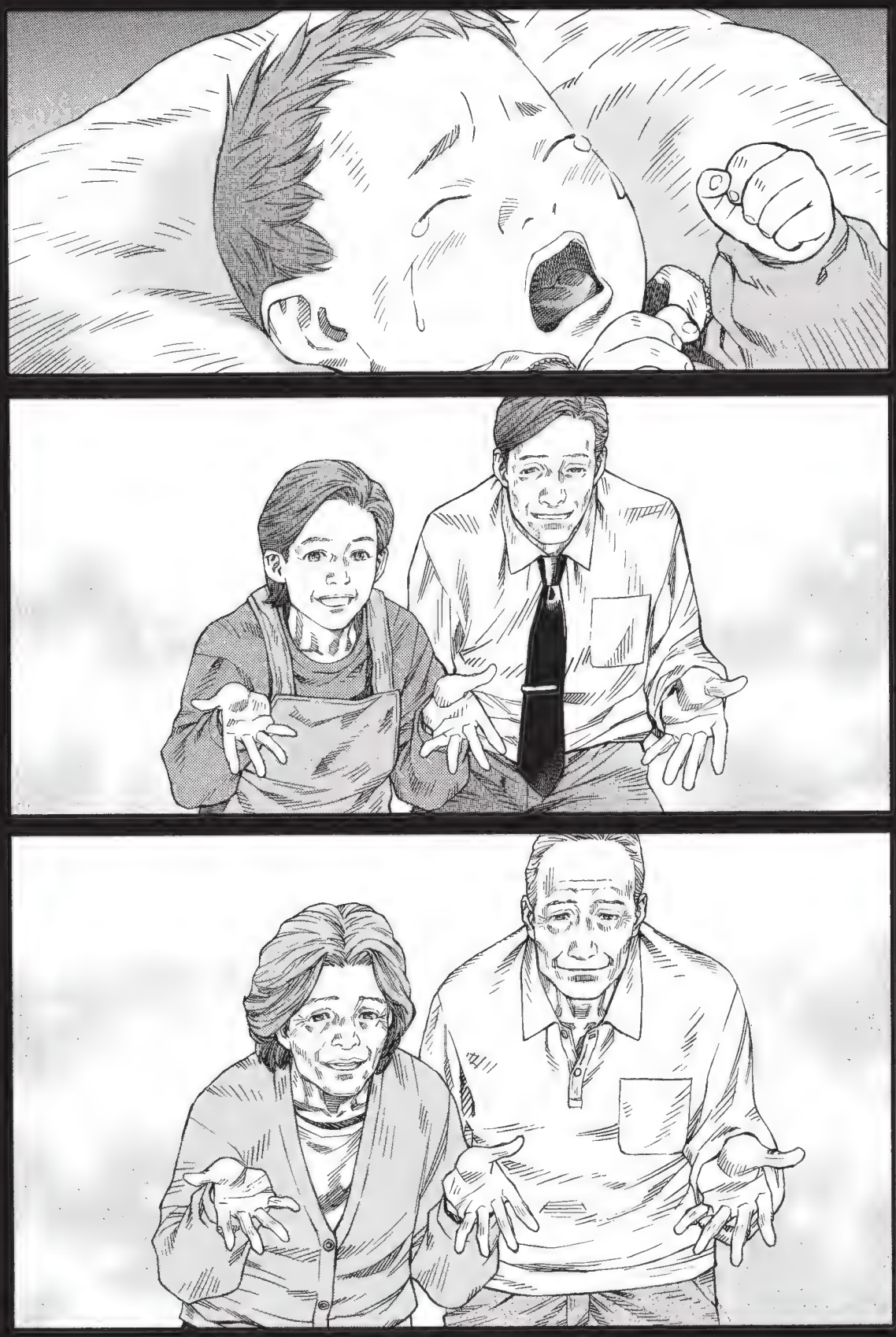

FSSSH
THUD
BAS-
TARD!
SMACK
HE IS TRYING TO KILL HIS PARENTS!
GRAB
SWAY
WE NEED TO OPEN THE HATCH!!

THUD
THUD
BAM
MAJ-
OR
!!
GRAB
DAMN
IT!
B-
B-
B-
BOOM

DAMN IT!! NO TIME TO GET HIS BRAIN NOW!!
MAJ- OR, NO ---
IT'S TOO DANGER- OUS!
CHING
IT'S SINK OR SWIM !!
I HAVE TO LINK UP WITH KAGO'S BRAIN!!

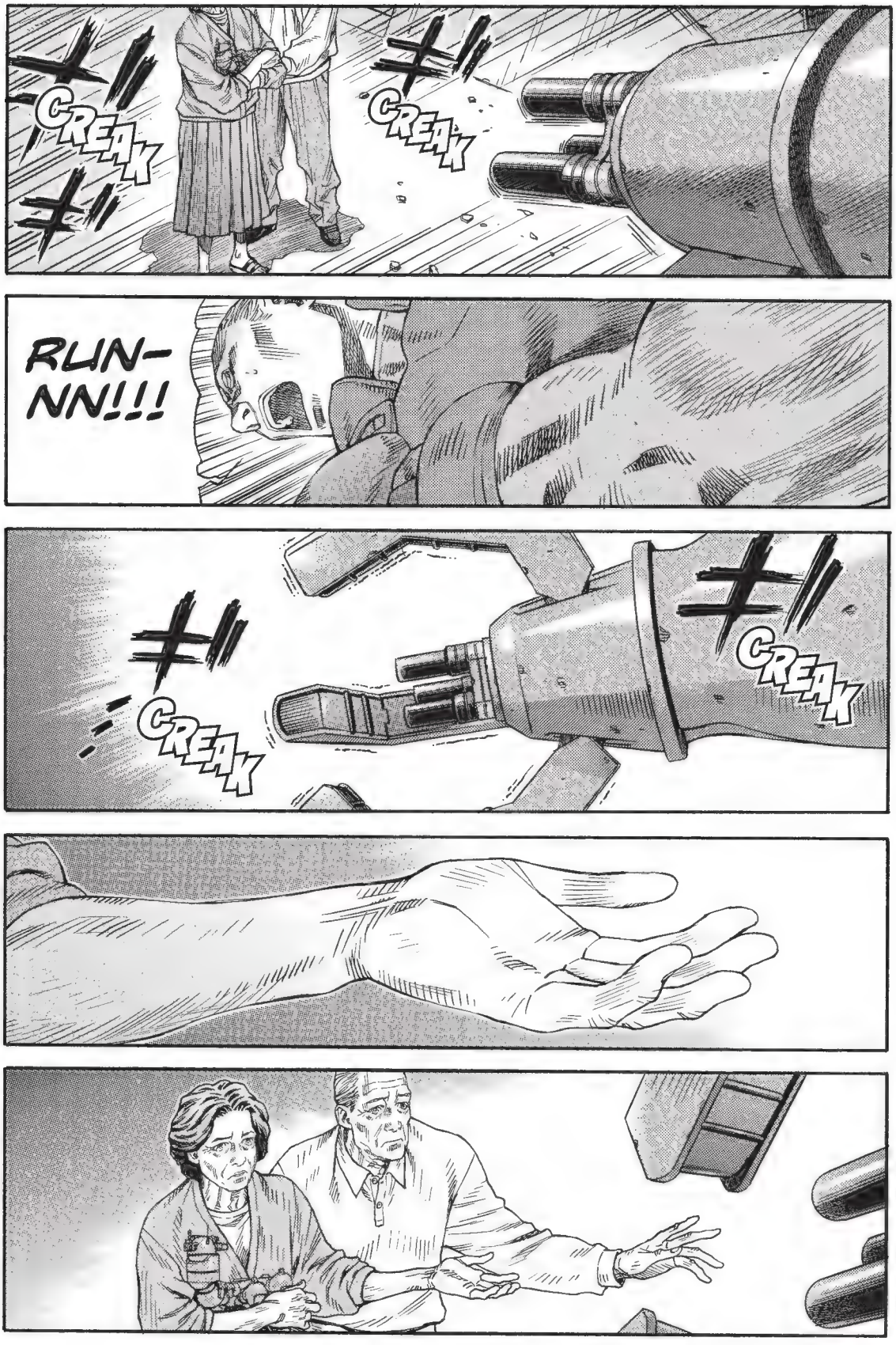
STO-
OO-
PPP!
KRSSH
AND
FRY
IT!!
KRSSH
U..
GHHH!
!
TREMBLE

KENBISHI
剣妓



I'M
HOME.

AHH!
twitch
ヒクッ!!
CREAAAAK
CREAK
CREAK

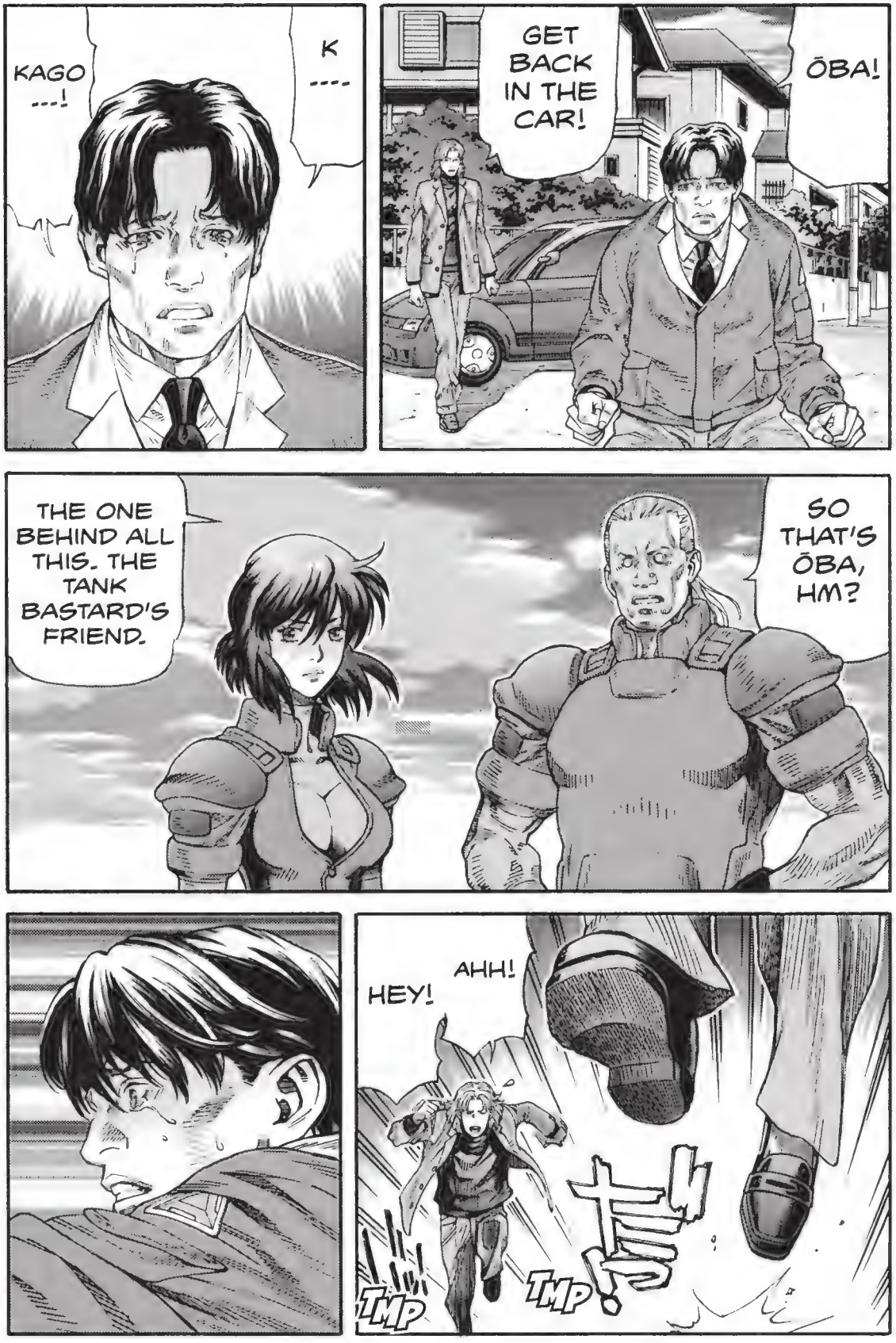

CREAK
CREAK
RUN-
NN!!!
CREAK
CREAK

jerk

CHAKK
CRAAASSH
TAK-
ESH-
!!!!!!
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
CHAKK
IT
STOP-
PED,
HUH?
CHAKK

SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF US ---
BAS-TARD!
TMP
HE HATED HIS PARENTS THAT MUCH!!
NO ---
VRRRRR
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

SKREEE
SLAM
WAIT, ÖBA!
TMP
TMP
BAAAAM
TMP


KAGO ---!
K ----
GET BACK IN THE CAR!
ŌBA!
THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS. THE TANK BASTARD'S FRIEND.
SO THAT'S ŌBA, HM?
HEY!
AHH!
TMP
TMP

KAGO

KAGO

SMACK
I'M SORRY

I COULDN'T EVEN GRANT

YOUR FINAL WISH

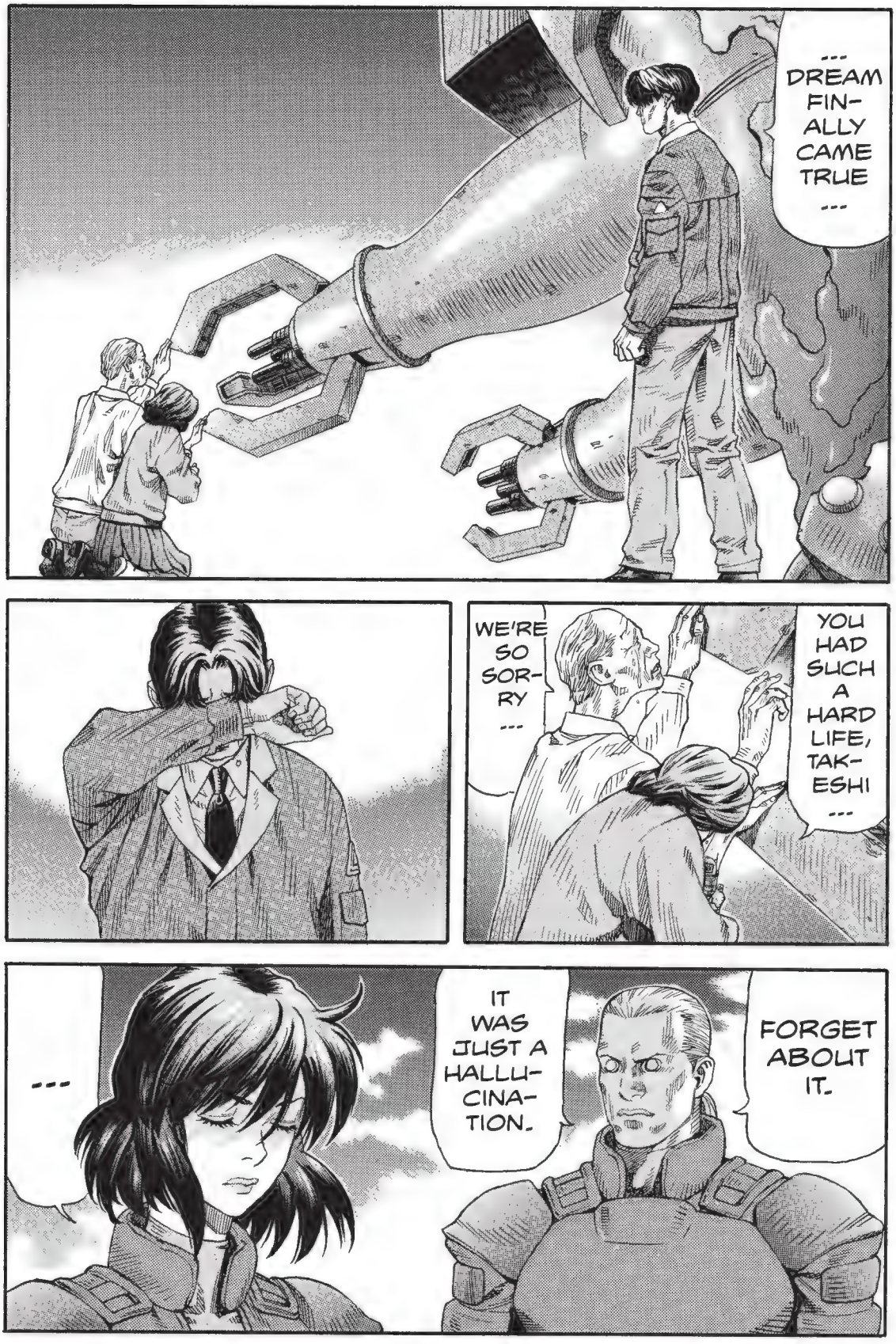
DO YOU REA-LLY THINK

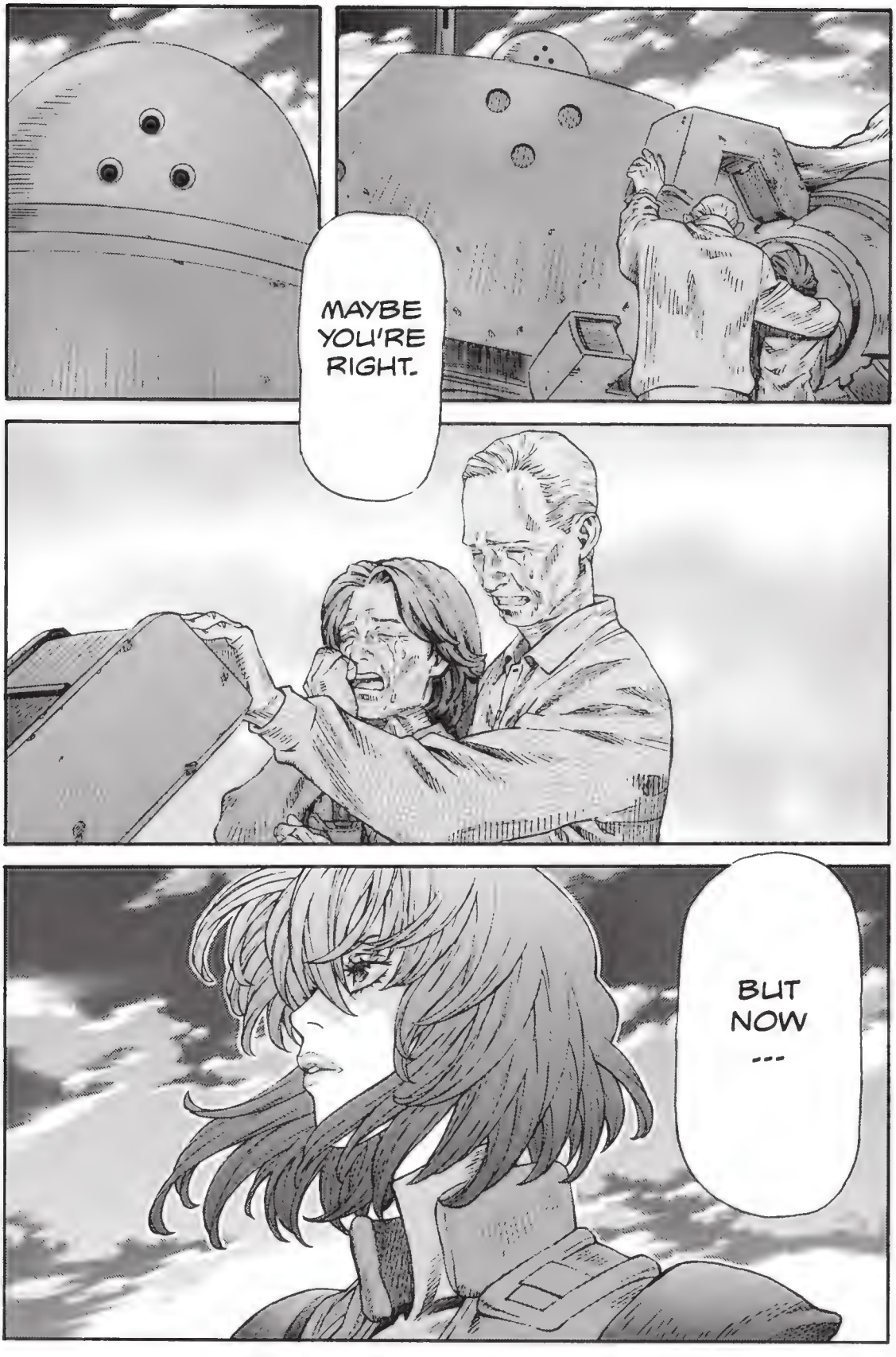
HIS FINAL

WISH
?
TMP

...
KAGO WANTED TO COME HERE FOR REVENGE AGAINST HIS PARENTS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WHEN I BURNED OUT KAGO'S BRAIN...
I FELT IT FOR ONE INSTANT ...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY STEEL BODY?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MOM? DAD?
... IT WASN'T PRIDE ... OR VENGEANCE.
IT WAS A STRANGE FEELING ...
SO KAGO'S ...
... LEFT ON HIS BRAIN.
IT WAS THE LAST FEELING...


... DREAM FIN- ALLY CAME TRUE ...
WE'RE SO SOR- RY ...
YOU HAD SUCH A HARD LIFE, TAK- ESHI ...
FORGET ABOUT IT.
IT WAS JUST A HALLU- CINA- TION.
...


MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT NOW ---

...
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL EVER FIND OUT FOR SURE.
#018 End

MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

マルドゥック・スクランブル

Created by Tow Ubukata

Manga by Yoshitoki Oima

"I'd rather be dead."

Rune Balot was a lost girl with nothing to live for. A man named Shell took her in and cared for her...until he tried to murder her. Standing at the precipice of death Rune is saved by Dr. Easter, a private investigator, who uses an experimental procedure known as "Mardock Scramble 09." The procedure grants Balot extraordinary abilities. Now, Rune must decide whether to use her new powers to help Dr. Easter bring Shell to justice, or if she even has the will to keep living a life that's been broken so badly.

Ages: 16+

KC KODANSHA COMICS

VISIT KODANSHACOMICS.COM TO:

- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Find out the latest about upcoming Kodansha Comics series

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AIR GEAR

BY OH!GREAT

Itsuki Minami needs no introduction—everybody's heard of the "Babyface" of the Eastside. He's the strongest kid at Higashi Junior High School, easy on the eyes but dangerously tough when he needs to be. Plus, Itsuki lives with the mysterious and sexy Noyamano sisters. Life's never dull, but it becomes downright dangerous when Itsuki leads his school to victory over vindictive Westside punks with gangster connections. Now he stands to lose his school, his friends, and everything he cares about. But in his darkest hour, the Noyamano girls give him an amazing gift, one that just might help him save his school: a pair of Air Trecks. These high-tech skates are more than just supercool. They'll enable Itsuki to execute the wildest, most aggressive moves ever seen—and introduce him to a thrilling and terrifying new world.

Ages: 16+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

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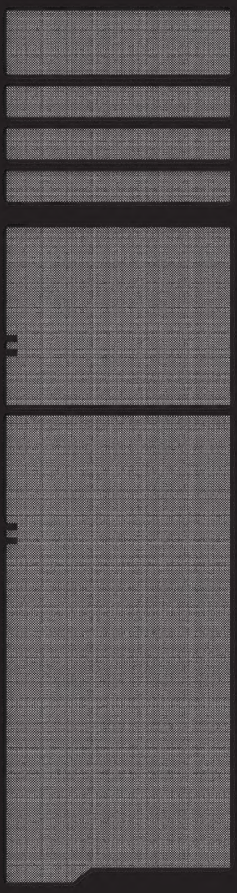

GHOST IN THE SHELL
STAND ALONE COMPLEX
EPISODE TESTATION

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To start at the *beginning*, go to the *end!*

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.